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INSIDE TODAY
U.S. NEWS

Iraqi soldier fires on U.S. troops, kills 2

REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press Writer
BAGHDAD (AP) — An Iraqi soldier fired a barrage of bullets at American troops protecting one of their commanders during a visit to an Iraqi army base Tuesday and killed two of them, the first U.S. servicemen to die since President Barack Obama declared an end to combat operations in the country last week. Even after the U.S. dramatically reduced the number of troops and rebranded its mission in Iraq, the attack was a reminder that Americans still have to defend themselves in a dangerous country where Iraqi forces only have a tenuous hold on security. Nine Americans were wounded in Tuesday's shooting. The attack also showed that even inside the bases of U.S.-trained Iraqi forces, American soldiers can still face danger. Just on Sunday, Americans training Iraqi forces at a military headquarters in the heart of Baghdad had to help fight off a squad of suicide attackers, two of whom managed to breach the compound in an hour-long battle. U.S. helicopters and drones joined the fight, but no American personnel were hurt in that assault.

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GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A Christian minister said Tuesday that he will go ahead with plans to burn copies of the Quran to protest the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks despite warnings from the top U.S. general in Afghanistan and the White House that doing so would endanger U.S. troops. Pastor Terry Jones of the Dove World Outreach Center said he understands the government's concerns, but plans to go forward with the burning this Saturday, the ninth anniversary of the attacks. He left the door open to change his mind, however, saying that he is still praying about his decision. Gen. David Petraeus warned Tuesday in an e-mail to The Associated Press that "images of the burning of a Quran would undoubtedly be used by extremists in Afghanistan — and around the world — to inflame public opinion and incite violence." State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley echoed that later in the day, calling the plan to burn copies of the Quran "un-American" and saying it does not represent the views of most people in the U.S.

Continued on next page



Continued from front page

“While it may well be within someone’s rights to take this action, we hope cooler heads will prevail,” Crowley said. He said burning copies of the Quran would be “inconsistent with the values of religious tolerance and religious freedom,” and potentially puts the lives of U.S. soldiers and diplomats at risk. Jones told the AP in a phone interview that he is also concerned but wonders how many times the U.S. can back down.

“We think it’s time to turn the tables, and instead of possibly blaming us for what could happen, we put the blame where it belongs — on the people who would do it,” he said. “And maybe instead of addressing us, we should address radical Islam and send a very clear warning that they are not to retaliate in any form.”

Jones, who runs the small, evangelical Christian church with an anti-Islam philosophy, says he has received more than 100 death threats and has started wearing a .40-caliber pistol strapped to his hip.

The threats started not long after the 58-year-old minister proclaimed in July that he would stage “International

Burn a Quran Day.” Supporters have been mailing copies of the Islamic holy text to his Dove World Outreach Center to be incinerated in a bonfire that evening.

The fire department has denied Jones a required burn permit for Saturday, but he has vowed to go ahead with his event. He said lawyers have told him his right to burn the Quran is protected by the First Amendment whether he’s got permission from the city or not.

Muslims consider the Quran to be the word of God and insist it be treated with the utmost respect, along with any printed material containing its verses or the name of Allah or the Prophet Muhammad. Any intentional damage or show of disrespect to the Quran is deeply offensive.

In this progressive north Florida town of 125,000 anchored by the sprawling University of Florida campus, the lanky preacher with the bushy white mustache is mostly seen as a fringe character who doesn’t deserve the attention he’s getting.

Still, at least two dozen Christian churches, Jewish temples and Muslim organizations in Gainesville have mobilized to plan inclusive events — some will read from the Quran at their own weekend services —



Rev. Terry Jones at the Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, Fla., plans to burn copies of the Quran on church grounds to mark the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States that provoked the Afghan war.

to counter what Jones is doing. A student group is organizing a protest across the street from the church Saturday.

The Vatican newspaper on Tuesday published an article in which Catholic bishops, including Archbishop Lawrence John Saldanha of Lahore,

Pakistan, criticized Jones’ plan. “No one burns the Quran,” read the headline in Tuesday’s L’Osservatore Romano.

Jones, who has about 50 followers, gained some local notoriety last year when he posted signs in front of his small church proclaiming “Islam is of the

Devil.” But his Quran-burning scheme, after it caught fire on the Internet, brought rebukes from Muslim nations and an avalanche of media interview requests just as an emotional debate was taking shape over the proposed Islamic center near the Ground Zero site in New York.

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CO firefighters to step up attack on Boulder blaze



BOULDER, Colo. — Firefighters ramped up their battle Tuesday against a wildfire that forced about 3,000 people to flee their homes as the wind-whipped blaze filled the surrounding canyon with heavy smoke and spit flames.

The 3,500-acre fire in the foothills outside Boulder has destroyed dozens of homes, according to a fire marshal, including some that belonged to firefighters. No injuries have been reported.

Calmer winds were in the forecast and authorities planned to dump two to three times the amount of fire retardant from the air than they did Monday, when gusty winds grounded air tankers for much of the day, Boulder County sheriff's Cmdr. Rick Brough said. However, tankers were still on the ground at midday because heavy smoke made it difficult for pilots to see their targets.

Brett Haberstick, a fire marshal with the Sunshine

Fire Protection District, said Monday the fire destroyed dozens of homes, but Brough had no exact figures Tuesday. The blaze broke out in Four Mile Canyon northwest of Boulder and rapidly spread across 5 1/2 square miles, or 3,500 acres. Erratic 45-mph gusts sometimes sent the fire in two directions at once. Brough said there is no indication it was intentionally set.

Crews managed to save the historic town of Gold Hill, including an Old West grocery store and structures once used for stagecoach stops. Firefighters had to relocate their engines and equipment several times to avoid the flames.

Four homes belonging to firefighters were destroyed. Those firefighters were allowed to leave to attend to their families and personal affairs, said Laura McConnell, a spokeswoman for the fire management team.

Nancy Engellenner and

husband Philip Helper assume their house was lost because so much was destroyed in the surrounding area.

"The way the wind was, it was just spitting flames everywhere," Engellenner said.

Resident David Myers also feared his house burned after he fled. At one point, he said heavy smoke obscured flames from the fire but he could still hear it, sounding like a cross between a freight train and a long roll of thunder.

"You can hear the crackling, you can hear just this consumption of fuel, just crackling and burning. And at that point, it was time to go," he said.

The lack of information about the fire damage frustrated residents who gathered for a morning briefing.

"There's no information about anything ... I am so frustrated," said Ronda Plywaski. She said that she, her husband and their two German shepherds, Loki and Doba, left their home

Monday after getting a reverse 911 call. They spent the night at the evacuation center at Colorado University.

"I just want to know if my house is OK," she said.

After the briefing, evacuees stood in small groups exchanging stories and

information. Some hugged; others wiped away tears.

On Monday, winds pushed the fire through three canyons where pine trees have been left prone to fire by disease, drought and beetles that burrow under the bark of pine trees, fire managers said.

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LAPD chief defends deadly shooting



LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles police Chief Charlie Beck is defending the deadly police shooting of a knife-wielding man that sparked a violent protest.

Beck told the Police Commission on Tuesday that the officer who shot Manuel Jamines (Hah-MEEN'-ehs) acted in defense of life Sunday. The Los Angeles Times reports that Beck also says officers warned Jamines in both Spanish and English to drop the knife before the father of three was shot.

The shooting of the Guatemalan immigrant prompted some violent protests late Monday near MacArthur Park, an area with a large population of Spanish-speaking immigrants. Four were arrested and three officers received slight injuries after some demonstrators began throwing rocks and bottles.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A protest over the fatal police shooting of a Guatemalan immigrant turned violent when some demonstrators threw bottles at officers, set trash cans on fire and refused to disperse. Television news footage showed people tossing the bottles and plastic crates at officers in riot gear late Monday near MacArthur Park, a neighborhood with a large Central American population west of downtown.

Police declared the protest an unlawful assembly around 10 p.m. and ordered the dozens of protesters to disperse. The majority of the crowd cleared out, but a small number lingered and caused trouble, police spokesman Gregory Baek said.

Police arrested and booked four people on suspicion of inciting a riot, which would be a misdemeanor, Officer Bruce Borihanh

said. Three officers were bruised but did not require hospitalization and went back on duty, and the confrontation was over by about 2 a.m. Tuesday, he added.

The protest began in the afternoon with demonstrators marching back and forth between a bustling shopping area where the shooting occurred and the Rampart police station three blocks away.

Police said three bicycle officers were patrolling the area Sunday when someone flagged them down and said a man was threatening passers-by with a knife.

When officers confronted the man, they ordered him to drop the knife but he refused, Lt. Andrew Neiman said.

"Instead, he came after the officers with a knife raised in the air, leading one of the officers to fire at the suspect," Neiman said. Authorities have not released the man's name. However, friends identified him as Manuel Jamines, 37, a construction worker and father of three.

Protesters contend the man was not dangerous and say officers should have used a non-lethal weapon to subdue him.

"When you're trying to stop a suspect or stop a deadly action, the purpose is to stop the threat as quickly as possible," Neiman said.

MacArthur Park was the site of a May 1, 2007, clash, where police officers pummeled immigration rights marchers and reporters with batons and shot rubber bullets into the crowd. Dozens of protesters and journalists were injured as officers cleared the park.

The embarrassing incident cost the city more than \$13 million in lawsuit settlements. Police were retrained on crowd control, forming skirmish lines, using batons in a crowd and using extraction teams to identify and arrest violent demonstrators.

Haiti quake survivor returns home after 6 months



CHICAGO - Half-buried in rubble, Bazelais Suy struggled to breathe — a dead woman lay on his chest. He knew he had to get her off, fast. Because he could still move his arms, he somehow managed to remove his belt, loop it around the woman's own belt and drag her off. But his legs were still pinned.

In the ruins of a flattened, five-story university building, he was surrounded by survivors and corpses — students crushed in Haiti's catastrophic earthquake.

Suy, leader of an activist group working to help Haiti's youth lift their homeland out of poverty, was climbing the stairs to a fifth-floor classroom when the building at the University of Port-Au-Prince began to shake. In seconds, the structure collapsed, and the 28-year-old Suy tumbled four floors below. With the aid of American supporters, a young man rescued from the rubble of Haiti's earthquake struggled to walk again — and to help his nation rebuild. An Associated Press reporter witnessed his long recovery and accompanied him on his return home.

He landed flat on his back on the ground, half-buried in broken concrete. The impact crushed his spine.

Suy lay dazed on his back in a small, dark hole. For hours, he heard the cries of people who had been buried alive, and he feared an aftershock would silence them all.

"I thought, 'I don't want to die,'" he said. "I told them not to be scared."

Suy did not die. Instead, he embarked on a nearly 2,000-mile journey that would restore his health and allow him to return, a half-year later, to the ground that almost killed him.

Suy's odyssey reads like a cliched Hollywood movie, but it's a real-life drama, starring a serious and charismatic young Haitian who owes his life to strangers from Chicago, now friends. They transported him to another world for six months of intense treatment, free of charge, while his country, too, tried to heal.

Suy was given little chance of ever walking again, but Haiti without legs is unimaginable — the able-bodied have a hard enough time getting by. Disability there is a stigma, a source of shame.

Stubborn and determined, Suy set his mind to beating the odds. In the dark, Suy (Soo-'EE) drifted in and out of consciousness. He does not remember being pulled out and placed among bodies on the sidewalk.

Friends arrived and lifted Suy into a car, heading down bumpy streets, first to a public plaza several miles away where victims were being taken. His family found him there on the ground and took him to a hospital where conditions were filthy and the only treatment consisted of occasional painkillers. Eventually he was moved to a tent clinic outside Sacre Coeur Hospital in Port-au-Prince.



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Boston Dawna, the Batman of Venice Beach, retires



LOS ANGELES — Hipsters, hustlers, celebrities, thieves, dope peddlers and just about everyone else in gritty, quirky Venice Beach know Boston Dawna. You can't miss the one-woman crime fighter.

She's like Batman, without the mask.

For nearly 40 years, she's cruised Venice, first in an old battered Buick Regal and today on her purple beach bicycle. Armed with a pair of handcuffs she bought at a sex shop, she's always on the lookout for lawbreakers.

Nowadays, the carnival that is Venice Beach has gotten too much, even for her.

Boston Dawna is leaving, and residents and police officers alike are none too happy.

"We're going to miss her, that's for sure," says Peggy Thusing, senior lead officer for

the LAPD's Venice area. "She just has a knack for spotting a criminal."

Dawna, 58, was a teenager when she followed her brother west to California in 1971 from their native Boston, the city that gave her both a nickname and the distinctive, nasally way she says it.

As she grew up, it became clear that her life of late nights would bring her across the paths of miscreants.

Back in the day, she rarely got to bed before the discos and the sports bars closed.

On her drive home in the city's gritty beach-front section, she'd see them everywhere: Thieves breaking into cars, drunks urinating in people's front yards, drug dealers peddling their wares outside stores that hours earlier were packed with tourists.

"And I would knock on neighbors' doors at 3 or 4 in the morning â€" this was before cell phones â€" and I'd say, 'Go call the cops.' And the cops would come and catch them," she says. "And I'd be like, 'Wow! This is fun!'"

Soon, she was patrolling Venice herself, snagging criminals and shouting at them, "Sit down or I'll blow your ... brains out." She'd slap on the handcuffs, pull a cell phone from her bra and call the police.

Donna Chaet, a hair stylist by

day whose thick accent is laced at times with profanity, had become Boston Dawna, crime-fighter. (She calls herself "Dawna," just as she says "wah-tah" when she asks for a drink.)

Thusing, the officer, has her own stories, pointing to the time Dawna called to say she'd seen someone putting a bicycle in a van.

That's not an unusual sight in Venice, where hundreds of people ride bikes along the beach every day. But something about

this person just didn't look right to her, so police put the van under surveillance.

They ended up busting a major bicycle theft ring, Thusing says.

Then, there was the time Dawna found a disoriented man under a lifeguard tower, chattering away that he'd been sent there by his three-star general, ordered to secure the tower from intruders.

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Report: Castro blasts Ahmadinejad as anti-Semitic



Cuba's leader Fidel Castro delivers a speech to students outside Havana's University in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Sept. 3, 2010. Castro dusted off his military fatigues for the first time since stepping down as president four years ago, a symbolic act in a Communist country where little signals often carry enormous significance. Associated Press

WILL WEISSERT
 Associated Press Writer
HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro criticized Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for what he called his anti-Semitic attitudes and questioned his own actions during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 during interviews with an American journalist he summoned to Havana to discuss fears of global nuclear war. Jeffrey Goldberg, a national correspondent for The Atlantic, blogged on the magazine's website Tuesday that he was on vacation last month when the head of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington — which Cuba maintains there instead of

an embassy — called to say Castro had read his recent article about Israel and Iran and wanted him to come to Cuba. Goldberg asked Julia Sweig, a Cuba-U.S. policy expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, to accompany him, and the pair spent portions of three days talking with Castro. Cuba's state-controlled media reported Aug. 31 that Goldberg and Sweig met with Castro and attended the dolphin show at Havana's aquarium, but the blog was the first to reveal details of what they discussed. Goldberg said their first meeting lasted five hours and featured appearances

by Castro's wife, Dalia, his son Antonio, and several bodyguards, two of which held his elbow to steady Castro when he moved. "His body may be frail, but his mind is acute, his energy level is high," wrote Goldberg, who also noted Castro's self-deprecating humor. The 84-year-old ex-president wore full military fatigues and an olive-green cap while addressing university students last week, and had previously appeared in public in a military shirt. But Goldberg saw Castro in a red shirt, sweat pants, and black New Balance sneakers. He said Castro, who himself has been a fierce

critic of Israel, "repeatedly returned to his excoriation of anti-Semitism," chiding Ahmadinejad for denying the Holocaust. Castro said that Iran could further the cause of peace by "acknowledging the 'unique' history of anti-Semitism and trying to understand why Israelis fear for their existence." The gray-bearded revolutionary related to Goldberg a story from his childhood that has been detailed by some biographers: that he overheard classmates saying Jews killed Jesus Christ. "I didn't know what a Jew was. I knew of a bird that was called a 'Jew,' and so for me the Jews were those birds,"

Goldberg quoted Castro as telling him. Castro later added, "This is how ignorant the entire population was." According to Goldberg, Castro said, "I don't think anyone has been slandered more than the Jews. I would say much more than the Muslims."

Castro also said that the Iranian government should understand that the Jews "were expelled from their land, persecuted and mistreated all over the world, as the ones who killed God." After undergoing emergency intestinal surgery in July 2006, giving up Cuba's presidency and dropping out of sight for four years, Castro has begun making near-daily public appearances to warn of a nuclear war pitting the U.S. and Israel against Iran and also featuring a Washington-led attack on North Korea.

"This problem is not going to get resolved, because the Iranians are not going to back down in the face of threats," Castro told Goldberg. Goldberg also said he revisited the Cuban Missile Crisis with Castro, asking if once "it seemed logical for you to recommend that the Soviets bomb the U.S."

"Does what you recommended still seem logical now?" Castro's answer surprised him: "After I've seen what I've seen, and knowing what I know now, it wasn't worth it all."

Women, kids among 17 dead in NW Pakistani bombing

RIAZ KHAN

Associated Press Writer

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A car bomb ripped through a police compound in a northwestern Pakistani city, killing 14 women and children and three officers, the latest in a string of attacks proving that Islamist militants remain a potent force in the country.

The dead were the wives and children of police officers, said Khalid Omarzai, the city's top government official. Another 94 people were wounded in Tuesday's bombing, he said, adding that they had been taken to hospitals after rescuers cleared rubble of over two dozen collapsed houses and shops.

The complex in the garrison city of Kohat houses officers' homes, a training facility and a commercial area.

Officer Mohammad Arif said there was a huge explosion in the residential area of the compound soon after the evening breaking

of the daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan. Power to the area was cut, forcing emergency workers to search for victims in the dark, he said.

Kohat, the major town on the road between the provincial capital of Peshawar and several tribal areas, has been the scene of several militant attacks this year. In April, two burqa-clad suicide bombers attacked refugees lined up to register for food and other relief supplies in the district, killing 41 people and wounding dozens more.

"This city is a war zone. We would always expect such attacks," said Omarzai, the government official. The Pakistani Taliban has claimed responsibility for a series of recent attacks across the nation aimed at destabilizing the country and weakening a civilian government already struggling with a massive flooding that has displaced millions and caused widespread destruction.

The deadliest have targeted

minority Shiite Muslims. A suicide bombing killed at least 65 Shiite Muslims at a procession in the southwestern city of Quetta on Friday. Two days earlier, a triple suicide attack killed 35 people at a Shiite ceremony in the eastern city of Lahore.

On Monday, a Taliban suicide bomber detonated a car in an alley behind a police station in a strategically important town in northwestern Pakistan, killing at least 17 police and civilians in an explosion that shattered the station and neighboring homes.

About 40 people were wounded in the attack in Lakki Marwat, which sits on the main road between Punjab province, Pakistan's largest and most prosperous, and the North and South Waziristan tribal regions.

Meanwhile, two roadside bombs Tuesday wounded four police officers in the northwestern district of Hangu, said police official Gul Jamal.



A boy injured by an explosion in Kohat is treated at a local hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010. Associated Press

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U.S. Troops

Continued from front page

The Americans attacked on Tuesday were providing security for a commander attending a meeting with Iraqi military personnel at a base near the city of Tuz Khormato, about 130 miles (210 kilometers) north of Baghdad. The assailant opened fire after an argument and was killed in the shootout that followed, said the city's police chief, Col. Hussein Rashid. He did not provide details on the nature of the argument. "This is a tragic and cowardly act and is certainly not reflective of the Iraqi security forces," said Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, the American commander in charge of U.S. forces in northern Iraq. Cucolo stressed during the Sept. 1 ceremony marking the formal change in the American mission that his soldiers know the fight is not over.

"There are groups here that still want to hurt us," he said last week. The U.S. military is investigating Tuesday's shooting, and the names of the slain soldiers were being withheld until their families were notified. At least 4,418 U.S. military

personnel have been killed in Iraq since the war began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The American military has reduced its footprint in the country from a one-time high of 170,000 troops to just under 50,000 as of Aug. 31. American troops pulled out of Iraqi cities in the summer of 2009, and soon after U.S. casualties fell significantly. Under an agreement between Iraq and the United States, all American forces are to leave the country by the end of next year. The U.S. troops remaining in Iraq until then are tasked with training Iraqi security forces, providing security for some State Department missions and assisting the Iraqi forces in hunting down insurgent groups. But they can be drawn into combat missions if Iraqi forces request their help. There are also just under 5,000 special forces troops who assist in training and will team up with Iraqi troops on counterterror raids. U.S. troops in Iraq still carry weapons and are able to defend themselves and their bases. They are also still hit by roadside bombs and mortar and rocket fire on a near daily basis. U.S. military officials



US Army soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment sit in a courtyard outside an Iraqi police station during a joint operation with Iraqi security forces on the first day after America ended its combat role, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010 in Hawija, north of Baghdad, Iraq. The U.S. marks on Wednesday the transition to the final phase of the Iraq war, shifting the focus of the remaining 50,000 American troops from combat operations to preparing Iraqi security forces to protect the country on their own.

have said Iranian-backed militias are stepping up their attacks against targets in Baghdad in an attempt to make it look like they are driving the Americans out. While the focus is supposed to be on training, Vice President Joe Biden vowed last week during a trip to Baghdad that the remaining American troops are "as combat ready, if need be, as any in our military." In Tuesday's attack, however, the danger came from within,

when U.S. troops were surrounded by the men they are supposed to be training to take over security for the country. U.S. troops often work very closely with Iraqi forces, sometimes living and working on the same small bases to improve relations, facilitate training and foster trust between both sides. That was the case at the Baghdad military headquarters attacked on Sunday by six assailants wearing

explosives vests and armed with rifles and grenades. In a statement posted on a militant website, an al-Qaida front group known as the Islamic State of Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack on the headquarters of the Iraqi Army's 11th Division. It was the second assault on the complex in less than a month and revealed the punishing gaps that remain in Iraqi security at even the most obvious insurgent targets.

Strikes in France, London foreshadow more protests

ANGELA DOLAND

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — French strikers disrupted trains and planes, hospitals and mail delivery Tuesday amid massive street protests over plans to raise the retirement age. Across the English Channel, London subway workers unhappy with staff cuts walked off the job.

The protests look like the prelude to a season of strikes in Europe, from Spain to the Czech Republic, as heavily indebted governments cut costs and chip away at some cherished but costly benefits that underpin the European good life — a scaling-back process that has gained urgency with Greece's €110 billion (\$140 billion) bailout.

In France, where people poured into the streets in 220 cities, setting off flares and beating drums, a banner in the southern port city of Marseille called for Europe-wide solidarity: "Let's Refuse Austerity Plans!" The Interior Ministry said more than 1.1 million people demonstrated throughout France, while the CFDT union put the number at 2.5 million.

Some commuters were annoyed by the disruptions — even in strike-inured France.

"I'm just getting tired of this because this is not the first time," said Henda Fersi, a passenger at the Part-Dieu train station in Lyon in southeast France. "I understand the strikers' point of view but, still, they put us in a difficult situation and we're penalized."

French protesters are angry about the government's plan to do away with the near-sacred promise of retirement at 60, forcing people to work until 62 because they are living longer. The goal is to bring the money-draining pension system back into the black by 2018.

As debate on the subject opened in parliament, Labor Minister Eric Woerth said the plan was one "of courage and reason" and that it is the "duty of the state" to save the pension system. He later told TF1 television that the president would announce minor changes to the reform Wednesday, though its fundamentals would remain the same.

Prime Minister Francois Fillon reminded the French that it could be worse: In nearly all European countries, the current debate is over raising the retirement age to 67 or 68, he said. Germany has decided to bump the retirement age from 65 to 67, for example, and the U.S. Social Security



Commuters leave a suburban train at the Saint Lazare railway station in Paris, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010. French unions launched a major strike Tuesday over unpopular conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy's plans to raise the retirement age from 60 to 62, with walkouts causing headaches for travelers and commuters.

Associated Press

system is gradually raising the retirement age to 67.

That sense of perspective was missing from many of the French protests, where some slogans bordered on the hysterical. One sign in Paris showed a raised middle finger with the message: "Greetings from people who will die on the job."

Amid the Paris mayhem, European Union finance ministers meeting in Brussels agreed to create new financial institutions in hopes of preventing a repeat of the government debt crisis that nearly left Greece bankrupt and brought the European banking system to its knees. Market jitters remain — though the most apocalyptic scenarios discussed a few months ago, such as the collapse of the euro currency, have been put on the back burner. In London, Underground workers unhappy about job cuts closed much of the city's subway system — the first in a series of 24-hour strikes planned for the fall. The thousands of London maintenance workers, drivers and station staff who walked out say the cuts will hurt service and safety.

With the underground train service shut, buses had to take on extra loads, while vehicular traffic was heavy and city sidewalks were teeming with walkers and bikers.

"The bus system has been a mess today, but I got here," said Anita Prazmowska of South London.

In France, some post offices shut down, schools were hamstrung and public hospitals were hit with a nearly 18 percent staff cut for the day. The strike also blocked the Atlantic coast port at

Saint-Nazaire, including vessels that feed into the nearby Total refinery.

Civil aviation authorities asked airlines to cancel a quarter of their flights at Paris' airports. Only two out of every five of France's famed high-speed trains

operated during the strike, which ran Monday evening through Tuesday night.

Some Paris commuters had to resort to the city's rental bicycle system, Velib, and not all were happy about it. One commuter, Antonia Gilles, tried it for the

first time: "It was a success but it was dangerous."

Similar protests are set for elsewhere in Europe in coming weeks.

A general strike was planned in Spain for Sept. 29 over labor market reforms, and in the Czech Republic, a massive protest against proposed austerity measures, including 10 percent salary cuts for state employees, was set for Sept. 21.

In Greece, all public transport workers in the Athens area are to stop work Wednesday for five hours to protest planned reforms to the indebted railway company. Rail and suburban rail workers are to repeat the work stoppage Thursday.

The French strikes come at a time when conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy's approval ratings hover in the mid-30 percent range.

On top of that, an unfolding tax and party financing scandal centered on the fortune of the L'Oreal cosmetics heiress has left many wondering if the government cares more about the interests of the rich and powerful than ordinary workers.

Nigeria: Assault ends at prison holding extremists

SHEHU SAULAWA,
Associated Press Writer

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP) — Gunmen launched a massive attack against a northern Nigerian prison holding suspected members of a radical Muslim sect, authorities said, apparently leaving some people dead and allowing some inmates to escape.

Bauchi state government spokesman Sanusi Mohammed said Tuesday night that police brought the fighting to an end after gunfire echoed through the surrounding hills and pasturelands for two hours. Mohammed said the gunmen, thought to be members of the Boko Haram sect, attacked the prison at sunset in hopes of freeing other sect members awaiting trial.

"The government has brought the situation under control and it is appealing to the public to remain calm," Mohammed said in a statement.

A witness who hid in a nearby mosque told The Associated Press that part of the prison caught fire and a wall fell down, allowing prisoners to escape. The witness also said he saw what appeared to be dead bodies in the area, but could not give a count of the casualties.

The witness spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared for his safety.

Adamu Abubakar, a Red Cross official, said the heavy gunfire could be heard throughout the city of Bauchi, the state's capital.

"Definitely now, I'm not going anywhere," Abubakar told the AP by telephone. "The situation is not safe."

Boko Haram — which means "Western education is sacrilege" in Hausa — has campaigned for the implementation of strict Shariah law. Nigeria, a nation of 150 million people, is divided between the Christian-dominated south and the Muslim-held north. A dozen states across Nigeria's north already have Shariah law in place, though the area remains under the control of secular state governments.

Boko Haram sect members rioted and attacked police stations and private homes in July 2009, triggering a violent police crackdown. More than 700 people died. Many of those arrested in the wake of the attacks last year are being held in the Bauchi prison pending trial.

In recent months, rumors about the group rearming have spread throughout northern Nigeria.



Thrilling any crowd

Aruba gets ready for Super DJ André Rouzo

Who will make Cas di Glas tremble!

ORANJESTAD - DJ Andé Rouzo from Miami, Florida, is not nicknamed 'The future of music' for nothing. His exceptional talent and energy level have made him a top performer in his field. And he is coming to Aruba to make the Cas di Glas at CILO City Lounge tremble. Rouzo will be on stage on Friday, October 1, making his fans crazy. The Cas di Glas event, which is a fundraising happening for the Koningin Wilhelmina Kankerfonds, is held from September 29 thru October 3. André Rouzo is one of the headliners of the four-day event; American Airlines is the gracious sponsor of his ticket.

Rouzo's career started early: since age 11 he has played the trumpet, becoming so proficient that he played in world-renowned bands, jazz ensembles and orchestras. During his career as a trumpeter he played in over 200 cities in the United States.

André Rouzo stepped out of his life as a musician to pursue his passion for electronic music in 2003 and, making good use of his 14 years of experience, he utilized his skills and focused on dj-ing and music production. In 2007 Rouzo landed his first residency as a dj at Armani Exchange, becoming one of the most popular official dj's in the US. In March 2008 André made history performing at the World Famous Club space in Miami.

In the past two years the passionate performer has shared stages with great names like David Solano, RiotGear, Starkiller, Cato K., Granite & Phunk and Armin van Buuren, making a name for himself as a world-class dj. André is greatly looking forward to coming to Aruba to play his music for the Cas di Glas crowd; like every other artist he is donating his performance free of charge in the hope to help raise money for the mobile breast cancer screening unit that is the goal of the Cas di Glas project.



Synergy between "Jazz Music" and "Visual arts"

ORANJESTAD -- TAG 168, a local foundation for Aruban Artists, will again host an art exhibition during the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival 2010 putting paintings, sculptures, even poetry by local artists on display for the duration of

the two-day happening.

The highlight of the exhibition will be a raffle, finding a new home for the Cooperative Painting created as a result of collaborative work, last year, during CSJF 2009.

The piece was made by several well-known local artists, and it will be raffled this year as a special treat to concert-goers.

Organizers report that artists will be getting together again this year to create another Cooperative Painting, in honor of CSJF 2010, to



be raffled next year.

The Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival 2010 explores the relationship between music and the visual arts, allowing both disciplines to inspire audiences and enrich our island culture. Looking at beautiful works of art while listening to music nourishes the soul, and sustains the human spirit.

There is a great connection between Jazz and modern art,

as the improvisational nature of jazz tends to connect well with abstract art, which is less restricted, and more innovative. The Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival is pulling together both, presenting a synergy which includes an exposition of works by Aruba's finest artists, combined with music from local and international renowned artists.



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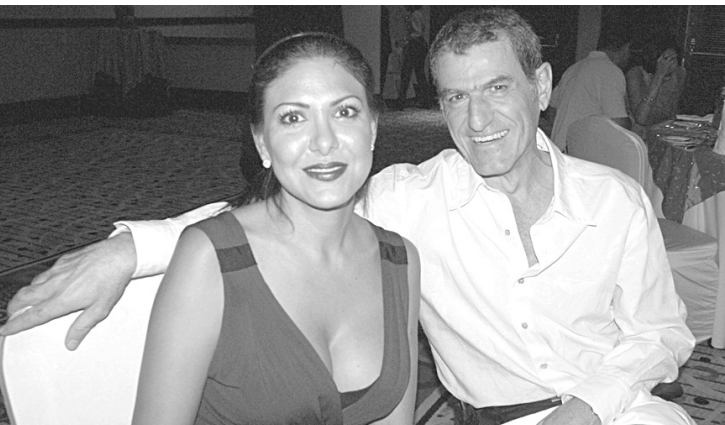
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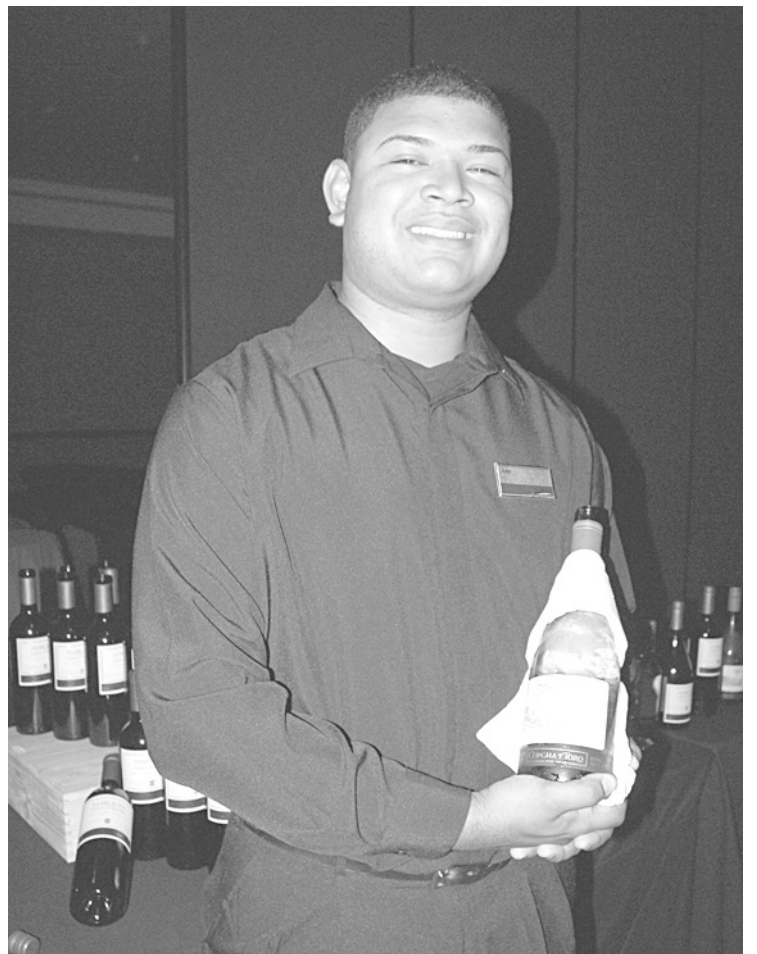
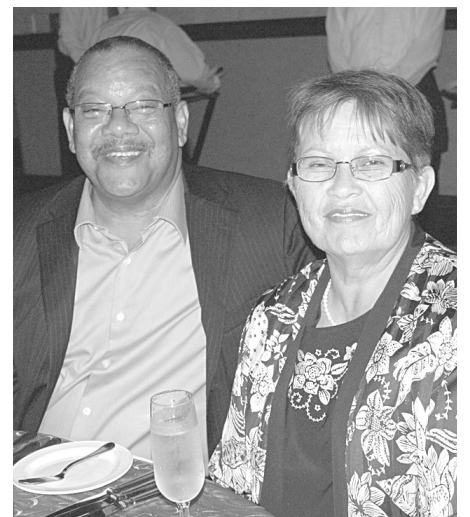
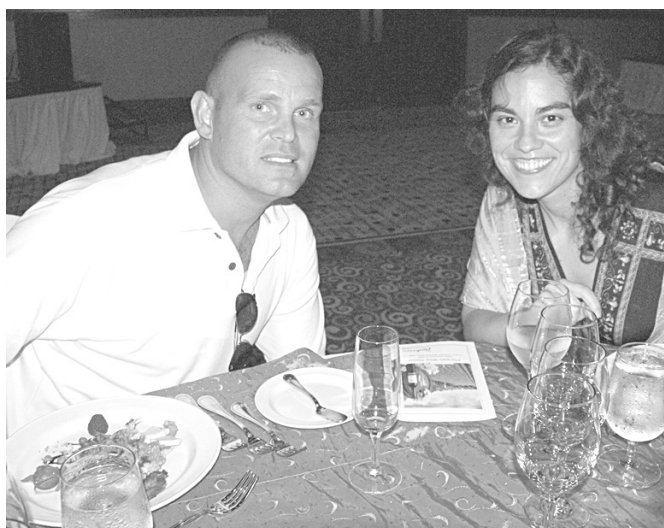


PALM BEACH — Aruba's movers and shakers were wined and dined in great style by the Wine Extravaganza, hosted by the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa in collaboration with Romar Trading at a spectacular gala event in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom.

The one of a kind event featured famed Chilean Concha Y Toro wines, with winemaker Alejandra Vallejo guiding guests along the culinary path to food & wine pairing heaven.

The Marques Wine Dinner was the highlight of the extravaganza and it showcased the talents of the resort's culinary team with Executive Chef Hector Espinoza at the helm.

Pictured here, guests enjoying the gourmet presentation and the bottomless glasses of wine of Terrunyo 2007 Sauvignon Blanc, Marques de Casa Concha 2007 Chardonnay, Marques de Casa Concha Cabernet Sauvignon, and Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc Concha Y Toro, with dessert.



Sick of being Sick? Strengthen your Immune System!

By: Dr Carlos Viana

Do you catch colds and viruses often? Are you sick a lot? Do you have allergies? Are you run down and fatigued most of the time? You may have a weak immune system.

Do you ever notice how some people catch everything and others are never sick and always full of energy? Different people have different immune systems. Our immune system is how we fight off infections, germs and even cancer. Sometimes the immune system does not work properly, as with immunodeficiency disorders. These people are extremely susceptible to infections.

Good health and getting over a cold quickly both rely on a strong immune system. My medical protocol, Biocompatible Medicine uses three approaches to strengthen your immune system. The three steps include: 1. Clean up or detoxifying the poison or what is making you sick, 2. Give the body the nutrition and lifestyle that promotes health and 3. Encourage activities that support positive emotions or spiritual health. All three aspects are important for a healthy immune system.

Start by cutting out or at least down on caffeinated drinks, alcohol and refined or sugary foods. Eat lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. Drinking mineral water helps you stay hydrated and flushes out toxins. 2 to 3 liters a day is recommended. Take a natural multi-nutrient, which does not contain iron and vitamin C daily.

Cope with stress by watching funny movies, do something using your artistic talents, practice yoga or Tai Chi. Phyllis and I swim in the sea and enjoy Salsa lessons regularly, which "multi-tasks" our mind, body and spirit. If depressed, consider seeing a therapist or a natural doctor. Improve self esteem by exploring ways of being more positive about life. A happy relationship, and sometimes a pet can help improve your immune system.

Your body also needs adequate rest, sunlight and exercise. 7 to 8 hours sleep is ideal and as the body needs daylight, avoid sleeping all day and being up all night. Exercise improves the lymphatic function which helps improve the immune system. Spend time walking in fresh air every week.

Many herbs and herb based supplements boost the body's ability to fend off diseases by supporting the organs in the body that deal with detoxification and the removal of waste, the organs of elimination. Herbs can aid the intestines, which eliminate most of our solid waste; they also help the kidneys deal with liquid waste. They may

also strengthen the skin, lungs and the liver in detoxification.

Some of the herbs that may help your immune system include: Wild Oregano Oil, Olive Leaf and Garlic Oil. WILD OREGANO OIL is often used in the aromatherapy treatment of coughs. The active ingredients are Carvachol and Quercetin. Oil of Oregano works as a natural antibiotic and is also antiviral.

Flavonoids such as quercetin are antioxidants; they scavenge damaging particles in the body known as free radicals, which damage cell membranes, tamper with DNA, and even cause cell death. Antioxidants can neutralize free radicals and may reduce or even help prevent some of the damage they cause. They also help keep LDL ("bad") cholesterol from being damaged, which scientists think may contribute to heart disease. Quercetin is also available alone as a dietary supplement.

OLIVE LEAF is another antioxidant and is used to fight colds and flu, yeast infections, and viral infections such as the hard-to-treat Epstein-Barr disease, shingles and herpes. Olive leaf is also good for the heart. Olive leaf has been shown to reduce low-density lipoproteins (LDL), or bad cholesterol. Medical researchers have found that olive leaf lowers blood pressure and increases blood flow by relaxing the arteries.

When I interned as a Traditional Chinese Doctor in Shanghai, in the People's Republic of China, I learned how to use ASTRAGALUS. Called Huang Qi in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) Astragalus is used to strengthen what is called the wei qi, or the defensive energy of the body against disease. TCM identifies astragalus as being helpful in conditions involving the Spleen, the Lungs, the Triple Burner, Blood and other fluids of the body. Known as a warming tonic, it improves the functioning of the Chi, the flow of energy in the body.

Astragalus is recommended for Spleen deficiency symptoms, such as diarrhea, fatigue, sweating, and lack of appetite. It is used as a tonic for the Lungs and is good for shortness of breath, asthma, and chronic lung problems. Astragalus is prescribed for arthritis, diarrhea, and nervous symptoms. It is often given to people who are in a state of generally poor or weakened health.

An essential oil obtained from steam distillation of garlic; GARLIC OIL contains a mixture that makes this oil highly regarded as a cure for colds, coughs, and other viral infections. Several clinical trials have shown garlic to reduce



blood cholesterol levels and the risk of blood clots. Those with low to moderate cholesterol levels (average 220 mg/dl) have been able to reduce their cholesterol levels by as much as 10 per cent after taking a daily dose of 900 mg of garlic for 12 weeks. If you're worried about odor, many garlic supplements are combined with parsley, which reduces the smell.

Get The Point! You do not have to just stay home and wait out a cold or flu, our clinic attends patients with fevers or infection many times by washing their colon. This can quickly reduce the fever and hydrate the body, which helps the immune system. Our clinic staff rarely gets sick and because they know how to keep their immune systems in top shape. If we do feel a cold or flu coming on, we know to get to bed a bit earlier, increase our intake of water, vitamin C and Zinc, and add some of nature's healing herbs to recover quickly from a virus. The next morning, we wake renewed and are ready for another beautiful day. Sick of being sick? Call for a consultation to learn how to boost your Immune System.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio (The Barefoot Doctor) & TV show ("Salud, Vitalidas y Dinamiso" presenta pa Dr. Viana tur Diaranson na ATV 15 durante Noticia Awenochi) writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, (Monday's: Noord, Bubali 11M) TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

101 Great Ways to Improve YOUR HEALTH, 101 Expert tips to Great Health, Including a chapter by Carlos M. Viana, Aruba's Barefoot Doctor. Available in Aruba

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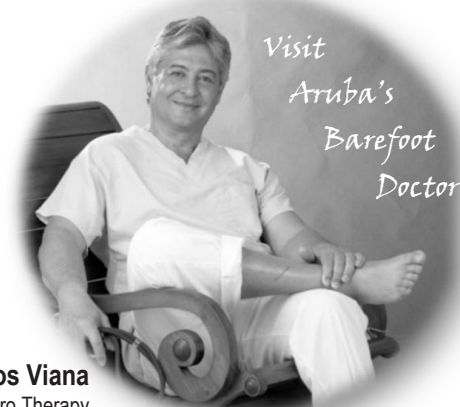
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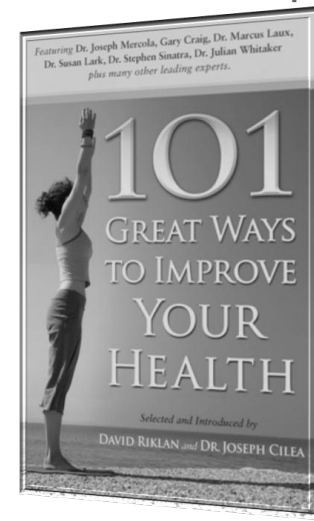
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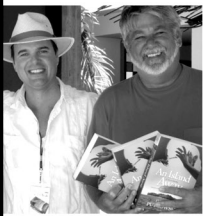
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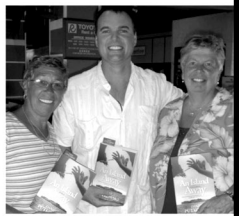
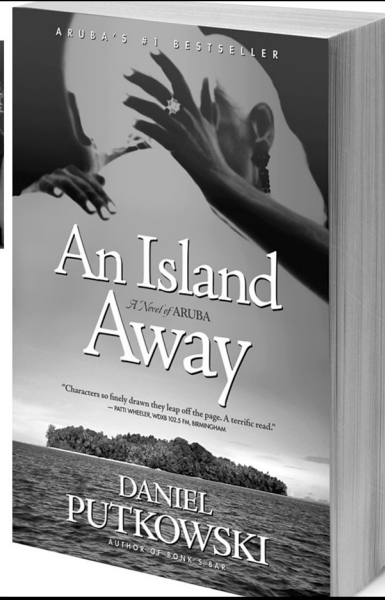
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Alicira & Alicia Paz named Ambassadors of Goodwill



ORANJESTAD – Recently at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored Ms. Alcira Paz-Urdaneta y Ms. Alicia Paz the prestigious title of Ambassadors of Goodwill. The sisters Alcira and Alicia, from Maracaibo, Venezuela, have been visiting Aruba for more than 20 consecutive years. Mrs. Paz-Urdaneta and Ms.

Paz commented during the ceremonies how much they love Aruba, especially the beaches, the shopping and the fabulous restaurants. As an added bonus to traveling to Aruba, they are able to visit family who resides here on the island. Mrs. Sandra Loefstok, who is a colleague at Aruba Today in the advertising department is their cousin who attended the



ceremonies together with other family members who are also on vacation. La Cabana Administrative Assistant Sharine Charles assisted Mr. Castro Perez, representative of the Government of Aruba through the commission

of the Aruba Tourism Authority, in honoring the two women for their loyalty to the island of Aruba. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those

with twenty consecutive years or more are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. For more information on how to become a special guest of Aruba, please contact the Aruba Tourism Authority.



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In the Paseo Herencia Mall

International performers light up the stage at Zissles



PALM BEACH - Since its July 30th premiere at Aruba's hottest new venue, Zissles, the spectacular dinner show D'Licious has been delighting both locals and island guests. Top-notch stage design and lighting, vibrant costumes, upbeat music, excellent food and libations, and amazing singing and dancing offer an unforgettable multi-sensory experience.

A talented 14-member cast was chosen for the show via a series of competitive auditions, where they were singled out as the cream of the



crop in Europe. After some intense preparation for the show, these nine dancers, four singers, and one host-cum-transvestite performer packed their bags and headed across the Atlantic to Aruba.

While grateful to be working in paradise and soaking up Aruba's chill vibe, their schedule is intense, with two-hour performances at Zissles every Sunday through Friday evening, as well as all

the training and preparation involved to keep the show "tight." And although one might expect a lot of tension to build up between 14 people who spend the majority of their time both living and working together, they all get along amazingly well. In fact, D'Licious producer Astrid Rose wholeheartedly admits that she has never worked with a group of artists who have meshed as well as her cast.

The group's positive energy is tangible onstage as well. Each performer is entirely invested in D'Licious because they have made this production from scratch together. Consequently, they also have the freedom to add to the show as they see fit, keeping it fresh and upbeat throughout its run. Plus, the stage layout allows the performers to interact with the guests during the show, creating a light, amiable atmosphere. After the show, the singers and dancers mingle with the guests as Zissles turns into a nightclub for the remainder of the evening.

Want to experience this phenomenal international cast live? Zissles is located at Paseo Herencia Mall. Tickets are available at www.zissles.com.



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First Monthly Aruba Culinary Festival at Divi Links is a HIT



PUNTA BRAVO -- Locals and visitors flocked to the plaza below the club-house at Divi Links for an exciting taste of Aruba and a cultural experience, as the first monthly Aruba Culinary Festival unfurled on Monday.

The first edition held this week showcased the Aruba Gastronomic Association restaurants serving their delicious signature dishes, paired with Arion Wine Company's fine portfolio of wines, which was generously poured all evening.

Local artists and artisans combined with live music lent an authentic Aruban touch while the crew of Tattoo, Mi Dushi and Kukoo Kunuku added an element of fun to the gathering.

Guests savored the international flavors of the Aruba Gastronomic Association restaurants, sampling the cuisine of Mulligan's Golf Café Bar & Restaurant, Amazonia Churrascaria, Aqua Grill, Driftwood, the French Steak House, Gasparito, Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano, La Trattoria El Faro Blanco, and Windows on Aruba.

Amazonia Churrascaria's grilled chicken breast, Brazilian sausage and filet mignon skewers, received rave reviews, while Aqua Grill Chesapeake crab cakes with grain mustard sauce, were a tremendous hit.

Driftwood served fresh catch of the day with a choice of Creole or garlic sauce accompanied by local corn bread; the French Steak House & Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano presented a combo of Beef Stroganoff on focaccia bread; Gasparito delivered traditional Seafood Keshi Yena & Chicken Keshi Yena; Mulligan's Golf Café Bar & Restaurant offered Beef Tenderloin in Port wine with couscous; La Trattoria El Faro Blanco shared its Gamberoni Giulio Cesare, Jumbo shrimp and asparagus wrapped in prosciutto ham, while the host restaurant, Windows on Aruba canapés included Tuna Sushi, Smoked Salmon with cream cheese & Duck with Feta Cheese.

Pictured here the tremendous evening under the stars.



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TWO THUMBS UP!

GREAT!, FANTASTIC! I've seen your show, 3 times, and I could see you over and over again.

-Yolanda Cellucci, Boston, Mass

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-Leopold family, New York

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AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK

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LOCATION: Westin Resort - Aruba

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BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8PM

STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

COST: \$20.00 (under 15), \$35.00 adult

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U.S. Ryder Cup picks: Woods, Cink, Johnson, Fowler

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiger Woods is going to the Ryder Cup as a captain's pick with his 71 victories and 14 majors. So is 21-year-old Rickie Fowler, who has never won anything at all.

Corey Pavin made an obvious choice and a surprising one Tuesday morning at the New York Stock Exchange when he added Woods and Fowler, along with former major champions Zach Johnson and Stewart Cink, to an American team that will try to retain the cup.

The Ryder Cup is Oct. 1-3 at the Celtic Manor in Wales. The United States won two years ago at Valhalla, and will try to win for the first time overseas since 1993 at The Belfry.

This will be the sixth Ryder Cup team for Woods, but the first in which he needed to be picked. Woods had finished first in the standings every time, including in 2008 when he spent the second half of the year recovering from knee surgery.

The eight Americans who qualified after the PGA

Championship were Phil Mickelson, Hunter Mahan, Steve Stricker, Jim Furyk, Matt Kuchar, Bubba Watson, Dustin Johnson and Jeff Overton.

European captain Colin Montgomerie said Pavin used his four picks "to good effect."

"Like my European team, the American side has an excellent blend of youthful talent alongside some seasoned Ryder Cup campaigners, and I am delighted to see Tiger Woods amongst Corey's selections," he said. "The Ryder Cup is a better event with him in it." Cink made his fifth consecutive team, while Johnson is playing for the second time. The final selection — and Pavin's most difficult — went to Fowler, the first PGA Tour rookie to make the U.S. team. While the former Oklahoma State star has three runner-up finishes in his 11 months as a pro, he is the first American captain's pick to have never won.

Then again, no one else stood out over the last three weeks. In the final tournament before Pavin's picks, none of the 14 players on the captain's short list finished among the top 10. According to people with knowledge of the decision, the final selection came down to Fowler and big-hitting J.B. Holmes, who tied for 11th at the TPC Boston.

Continued on next page



In this photo released by the PGA of America, a tote board displaying the United States Ryder Cup golf team, including the four captain's pick, is shown during a news conference at the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010, in New York. United States Ryder Cup captain Corey Pavin announced his captain's pick Tuesday, selecting Tiger Woods, Rickie Fowler, Zach Johnson and Stewart Cink to the team. The Ryder Cup is scheduled to take place from Oct. 1-3 at the Celtic Manor in Wales.

Associated Press

BUSH WHACKED



In this July 20, 2010, file photo, University of Southern California's Reggie Bush Heisman Trophy is displayed at the Heritage Hall on the USC campus in Los Angeles. Yahoo! sports is reporting that 2005 Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush is expected to be stripped of the award by the end of the month. The former Southern Cal running back would become the first player in the 75-year history of the award to have the Heisman Trophy taken away. The report also says the award would be left vacant for '05.

Associated Press

Boise State gains ground in AP Top 25

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

More AP Top 25 voters are buying into Boise State as the No. 1 team in the country.

Boise State gained seven first-place votes and closed in on No. 1 Alabama and No. 2 Ohio State as the top three teams in the first regular season Associated Press football poll held their spots from the preseason.

Continued on page 6



Ryder Cup

Continued from front page

Among those left off were Anthony Kim, who missed three months this summer with thumb surgery and was bumped out of the top eight in the final qualifying tournament; former U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover and Charley Hoffman, who closed with a 62 on Monday to win the Deutsche Bank Championship. v Fowler's selection gives the Americans five Ryder Cup rookies, and another player without a PGA Tour victory. Among the eight who qualified for the team was Overton, winless in his five years on tour.

Woods, who retained the No. 1 world ranking for the 274th consecutive week Monday at the Deutsche Bank Championship, became an obvious selection once he said at the PGA Championship that he wanted to be part of the

team. He has been accused of being indifferent toward the Ryder Cup, and his career record of 10-13-2 is the one flaw in an impeccable career inside the ropes.

He will be going to Wales on his own — his divorce was approved two weeks ago — and no longer cutting such an invincible figure.

Woods has failed to win since returning at the Masters, although he appears headed in the right direction. He posted three rounds in the 60s at the Deutsche Bank Championship for the first time all year.

Europe's team has six Ryder Cup rookies — Italian brothers Francesco and Edoardo Molinari, Peter Hanson, Rory McIlroy, Ross Fisher and PGA champion Martin Kaymer — along with Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter, Pádraig Harrington, Luke Donald, Miguel Ángel Jiménez and U.S. Open champion Graeme

McDowell.

Zach Johnson won the Colonial in May, and the former Masters champion had been coming on strong in recent weeks. He finished one shot out of the playoff at the PGA Championship, and kept himself in the mix at the tour's playoff events. Cink, who won the British Open at Turnberry last year, has been making slow progress in recent months.

Only two of the eight American players who made the team have experience playing the Ryder Cup overseas. Cink has played in England and Ireland, while Johnson's only Ryder Cup was in Ireland.

"On the road, it's very different," Woods said. "You get booed a lot, you get jeered, and people say things they probably shouldn't say. I've had that experience and understand how to deal with it and make it a positive thing."



Iranian human rights lawyer Mohammad Mostafaei, centre, who defended a woman sentenced to death by stoning in Iran, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, left, and French philosopher Bernard Henry Levy, right, during a press conference, in relation to the case of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, a 43-year-old mother of two who has been sentenced to death by stoning for adultery has attracted worldwide attention, in Paris, Monday, Sept. 6, 2010. Associated Press

Schleck departure overshadows 10th stage of Vuelta



Spain's Imanol Erviti from Team Caisse d'Epargne spays champagne in the podium after winning the 10th stage of La Vuelta de España in Vilanova, near Barcelona, Spain, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010.

Associated Press

DANIEL WOOLLS

Associated Press Writer

MADRID (AP) — Two-time Tour de France runner-up Andy Schleck and Saxo Bank teammate Stuart O'Grady were sent home from the Spanish Vuelta on Tuesday after breaking

team rules on drinking, overshadowing a successful day for the home nation.

Imanol Erviti of Spain won the 10th stage and countryman Joaquim Rodríguez took the overall lead, but the day's talking point was the departures of

Schleck and O'Grady.

Team Saxo Bank would only say the pair had been "sent home due to internal disciplinary reasons," but Schleck said he and O'Grady broke a team rule "by going out for a drink after dinner."

Schleck said he is "responsible for my actions," but argued the decision by Team Saxo Bank boss Bjarne Riis to remove the pair was "too harsh."

"I was getting back into shape and I would really have liked to stay at the Vuelta and help (brother) Frank and the rest of Team Saxo Bank," Schleck told Cyclingnews.com.

Riis was not available for comment.

Relations between Riis and the Schleck brothers

have been tense since they said they would leave to join a new team based in Luxembourg.

Other Team Saxo Bank riders Jakob Fuglsang, Jens Voigt and O'Grady have also been linked with the new team, which was created by Riis' former longtime press assistant, Brian Nygaard, and his then-aide Kim Andersen.

In August, three-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador signed a deal to compete for Team Saxo Bank-Sungard — its new name from 2011 — next season after deciding to leave Astana.

Luxembourg rider Schleck was 77th overall in the Vuelta standings, while Australian O'Grady was 157th.

In Tuesday's 10th stage, Rodríguez, of Team Katusha, took the overall lead from Igor Anton Hernández and is ahead by 2 seconds. Rodríguez picked up a time bonus on the intermediate sprints. Caisse d'Epargne rider Erviti used a late solo breakaway to take the stage, covering the 109.2 miles in northeast Spain from Tarragona to Vilanova i la Geltru in 4 hours, 13 minutes, 31 seconds. It was the second Vuelta stage win of his career.

Two Belgians were next: Romain Zingle and Greg Van Avermaet, both 37 seconds off the pace.

Wednesday's 11th stage is 129.5-mile ride from Vilanova i la Geltru to Andorra.

Report: Reggie Bush to be stripped of Heisman

NEW YORK – Yahoo! Sports reported Tuesday that 2005 Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush is expected to be stripped of the award by the end of the month.

The former Southern Cal running back would become the first player in the 75-year history of the award to have the Heisman Trophy taken away. The report also said the award would be left vacant for '05.

The NCAA found major

violations in USC's football program and levied serious sanctions against the school in June.

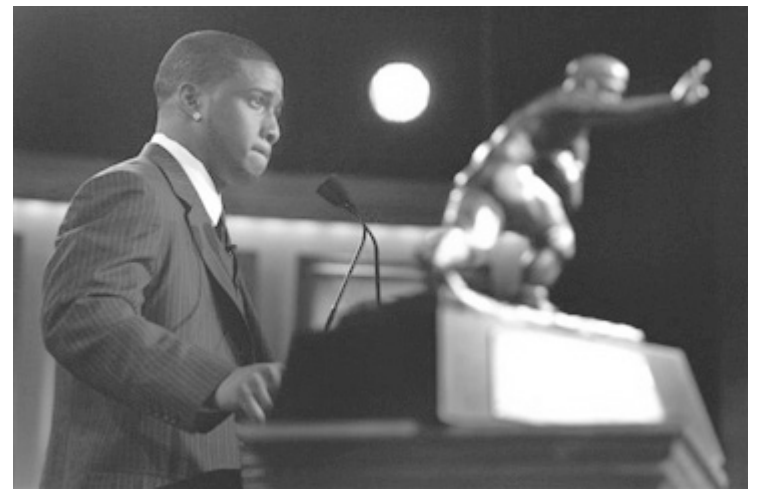
"I can tell you the Heisman Trophy trust has made no decision regarding the Reggie Bush situation," Robert Whalen, executive director of the Heisman Trophy Trust, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The website cited two anonymous sources close to the Heisman Trophy

Trust, who say the group's investigation is almost complete and would agree with the NCAA's finding that Bush was ineligible during the '05 season.

Bush now plays for the Super Bowl champion New Orleans Saints, who said Tuesday that they would have no comment on the report.

Typically, the Saints have declined comment on Bush's NCAA violations because they have no bearing on his



In this Dec. 10, 2005, file photo, Southern California tailback Reggie Bush pauses while giving his acceptance speech as the winner of the Heisman Trophy award in New York.

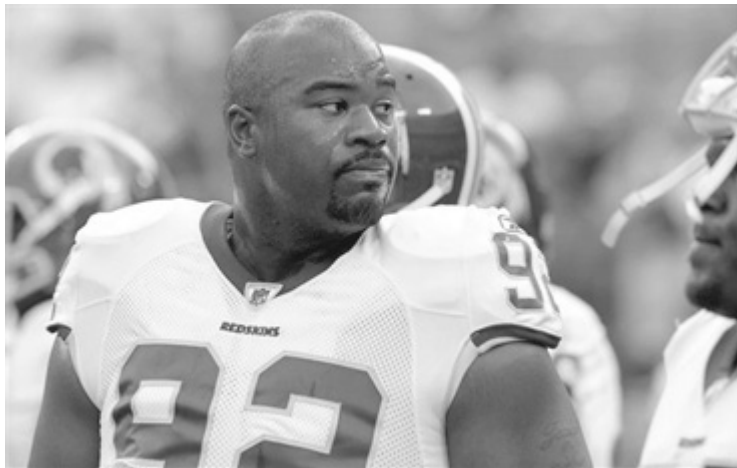
Associated Press

pro career.

Team headquarters also were closed to reporters on Tuesday. Bush's Los Angeles-based

attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, did not immediately respond to a request for comment from the AP.

AP Sources: Redskins, Titans talking Haynesworth



In this Aug. 21, 2010, file photo, Washington Redskins defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth looks on before an NFL preseason football game against Baltimore Ravens in Landover, Md. People with knowledge of the negotiations say that the Washington Redskins and the Tennessee Titans are in discussions about a trade of disgruntled defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth.

Associated Press

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer
NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Washington Redskins and the Tennessee Titans are in discussions about a trade of disgruntled defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth, people with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The people spoke to the AP Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential.

Washington signed Haynesworth to a \$100 million contract in 2009 as

a free agent, and the tackle accepted a \$21 million bonus in April. It's been a nonstop battle of wills between Redskins coach Mike Shanahan and Haynesworth since then.

The Titans declined to comment, and the Redskins did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

ESPN first reported the teams were discussing a possible Haynesworth deal. Shanahan was hired in January, and Haynesworth did not participate in the team's offseason program while lobbying for a trade

because he didn't want to play nose tackle in the new 3-4 defense. Shanahan gave Haynesworth a chance to leave, but the tackle stayed and accepted the bonus in his contract.

Haynesworth skipped a mandatory minicamp and was fined. In training camp, Shanahan required Haynesworth to pass a conditioning test before practicing, which Haynesworth didn't do until the 10th day of camp. The tackle seemed to be accepting his role in the 3-4 defense by the third preseason game.

Then Shanahan made Haynesworth play almost the entire game Thursday in the preseason finale against Arizona when the regular starters had the night off. Haynesworth played 49 of 55 snaps and was on the field in the final minutes.

His status for Sunday night's opener against Dallas has been in question with Shanahan saying only that he will play the best players ready to play.

The Titans have missed Haynesworth's presence in the middle of their

line, slumping to 31 sacks without him helping collapse offensive lines. He managed only four sacks with the Redskins himself, a big dip from his 8 1/2 sacks in 2008 with Tennessee.

And the Titans know him well, having drafted Haynesworth in the first round in 2002. They used the franchise tag to keep

Haynesworth in 2008 to help keep him focused, and the deal they eventually offered in 2009 was nowhere near what he got from Washington in the first hours of free agency.

T he former University of Tennessee lineman has 28 career sacks and six forced fumbles in his first eight NFL seasons.



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Chicago White Sox's A.J. Pierzynski hits a go-ahead single in the 10th inning to drive in Alejandro De Aza against the Detroit Tigers in a baseball game Monday, Sept. 6, 2010 in Detroit. The White Sox defeated the Tigers 5-4 in 10 innings.
 Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A.J. Pierzynski hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning and finished with three RBIs as the Chicago White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 5-4 Monday for their seventh straight win. Chris Sale (1-1) earned his first major league victory, finishing with 2 2-3 innings of scoreless relief. Jose Valverde (2-4) took the loss. Manny Ramirez led off the Chicago 10th with a single and went to second when left fielder Ryan Raburn stumbled and made an error. Pinch-runner Alejandro De Aza took third on a single by pinch-hitter Alex Rios, and Pierzynski looped an RBI single. The White Sox stayed 3 1/2

games behind American League Central-leading Minnesota. Twins 5, Royals 4 At Minneapolis, Jason Kubel hit a go-ahead homer and Jim Thome launched his 585th career home run moments later, powering Minnesota past Kansas City. The fifth-inning shots by Kubel and Thome kept the Twins 3½ games ahead of Chicago in the AL Central. Thome's blast hit off the top of the American flagpole beyond the right-field bleachers at Target Field. He is one homer shy of Frank Robinson for eighth all-time. The homer by Thome traveled so far and was so high, it required multiple viewings by

the Twins public relations staff to get an accurate estimated distance. It was eventually announced at 480 feet. Orioles 4, Yankees 3 At New York, Brian Matusz won his fourth straight start and Brian Roberts hit a go-ahead single in the seventh inning off struggling A.J. Burnett to lead Baltimore over New York. Alex Rodriguez homered and drove in two runs to reach 100 RBIs for the 13th straight season and record 14th time overall. He surpassed Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Jimmie Foxx, who each reached 100 RBIs 13 times. Baltimore had been 0-6 at Yankee Stadium, but the AL-worst Orioles came to New York for the first time under Buck Showalter and won their third in a row, improving to 20-13 under their new manager. Red Sox 12, Rays 5 At Boston, Ryan Kalish hit a grand slam, David Ortiz had a two-run shot and Jon Lester pitched six solid innings to lead Boston over Tampa Bay, preventing the Rays from climbing closer in the AL East race. The Rays lost their third straight and remained 2 1/2 games behind the first-place Yankees. Boston moved within 6 1/2 games of Tampa Bay in the wild-card standings. Adrian Beltre added a solo homer for the Red Sox. Lester

(16-8) gave up two runs and four hits while striking out 10 for his fifth win in six decisions. Boston took control by scoring three runs in each of the first two innings, and broke it open when Kalish hit his slam in a five-run fourth. Ortiz and Beltre hit consecutive homers three pitches apart in the first to put the Red Sox ahead 3-1. Blue Jays 7, Rangers 2 At Toronto, Vernon Wells hit a three-run homer and Aaron Hill had a two-run shot as Toronto handed Texas its seventh loss in nine games. Yunel Escobar added a solo drive for Toronto, which leads the majors with 211 homers. Tommy Hunter (12-3) struggled early as the Rangers lost their fourth straight. Texas leads the AL West by seven games over Oakland. In the seventh, a fan was struck on the right shoulder by a falling metal letter "B" after a foul ball by Jose Bautista hit a sign honoring Jackie Robinson. The man was treated with ice packs and returned to his seat. Athletics 6, Mariners 2 At Oakland, California, Coco Crisp and Matt Carson each hit solo home runs to back Brett Anderson as Oakland beat Seattle. Anderson (4-6) allowed four hits in a season-high 7 2-3 innings and left to a standing

ovation. He ended a four-game losing streak that matched the longest of his career. Crisp homered in the first, Oakland's first leadoff homer of the season. Jason Vargas (9-9) lost his fourth straight start and was done after 4 1-3 innings, matching his shortest outing of the year. Indians 3, Angels 2 At Anaheim, California, Choo Shin-soo drove home Michael Brantley with a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning as Cleveland rallied to beat Los Angeles. Brantley's two-out double off Angels closer Fernando Rodney (4-2) started the final surge for the last-place Indians, who have won three of five on a West Coast road trip. Torii Hunter hit a tying homer in the sixth for the punchless Angels, who have lost 10 of 14. Jensen Lewis (4-2) earned the victory with three pitches, striking out Mike Napoli with a runner on base in the eighth. Chris Perez pitched the ninth for his 19th save in 23 chances. In other AL games it was Baltimore 4, N.Y. Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 4, 10 innings; Toronto 7, Texas 2; Minnesota 5, Kansas City 4; Oakland 6, Seattle 2; Boston 12, Tampa Bay 5; Cleveland 3, L.A. Angels 2.

AL Roundup

Pierzynski singles in 10th for White Sox row

NL Roundup

Walker homers, Pirates beat first-place Braves 3-1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Neil Walker hit a two-run homer and Brian Burres limited Atlanta to one run over six innings in his first start in more than three months as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the slumping Braves 3-1 on Monday.

Despite losing its fourth in five games, Atlanta was assured of remaining in first place in the National League East for at least another day when Florida beat Philadelphia in the first game of a day-night doubleheader. Atlanta had won five of its previous six against the Pirates, who lead the majors with 91 losses. But the Braves did almost nothing against Burres (3-3), who limited them to David Ross' sacrifice fly during his first start since losing to Atlanta 6-3 on May 29.

Joel Hanrahan pitched the ninth for his fourth save. Padres 4, Dodgers 2

At San Diego, Nick Hundley homered and drove in two runs and Tim Stauffer filled in for ailing ace Mat Latos as the NL West-leading San Diego Padres snapped their 10-game losing streak with a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Padres kept their one-game division lead over the San Francisco Giants, who won at Arizona.

The losing streak was San Diego's longest since a franchise-record 13-game slide in May 1994. The free-fall trimmed 5 1/2 games from the Padres' lead and dropped them from having the best record in the NL to the third-best.

With Stauffer going only four innings in an emergency start, Adams (3-1) got the win by allowing just a walk in 1 2-3 innings while striking out three. Heath Bell pitched a perfect ninth for his 38th save in 41 chances.

Latos was scratched due to stomach flu.

Marlins 7, Phillies 1, 1st game

Phillies 7, Marlins 4, 2nd game

At Philadelphia, Roy Oswalt

pitched seven effective innings, helping Philadelphia beat Florida to split their day-night doubleheader.

Placido Polanco had a double, triple and two RBIs and Chase Utley also drove in a pair as the Phillies moved within a half-game of NL East-leading Atlanta.

In the opener, Adalberto Mendez pitched one-hit ball for six scoreless innings before injuring himself in his major league debut.

Oswalt (11-13) allowed four runs and six hits, striking out seven. The three-time All-Star is 5-1 since joining the Phillies in a trade with Houston on July 29. Philadelphia is 7-1 in his starts. Mike Stanton, Hanley Ramirez and Cameron Maybin each homered off Oswalt, who gave up just one run in his previous 21 1-3 innings. v Brad Lidge pitched a scoreless ninth for his 21st save in 26 chances. Mendez (1-0) left the first game in the seventh after hurting his right quadriceps running to first base on a single. He said he just cramped up and would be fine.

Stanton and Chad Tracy homered and Dan Uggla drove in three runs for Florida. Marlins rookie Logan Morrison, hit in the face by a foul ball from teammate Emilio Bonifacio while in the on-deck circle Sunday, went 1



Pittsburgh Pirates' Neil Walker, right, rounds third to greetings from coach Tony Beasley (10) after hitting a two-run homer off Atlanta Braves pitcher Tommy Hanson during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh Monday, Sept. 6, 2010. The Pirates won 3-1.

Associated Press

for 4 and scored a run.

Rockies 10, Reds 5

At Denver, Ubaldo Jimenez won his club-record 18th game despite a wild performance as Colorado rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Cincinnati. Even though he leads the NL in victories, Jimenez (18-6) hadn't won since Aug. 4. He snapped his four-game losing streak while struggling through a 123-pitch effort. Jimenez allowed seven hits and matched a season high with

six walks, one intentional, in six innings. Troy Tulowitzki homered, tripled and drove in three runs for the Rockies, who have won four straight against division leaders. Carlos Gonzalez extended his hitting streak to a career-best 14 games and finished 3 for 5 with two RBIs, raising his batting average to .340.

Tulowitzki broke a 4-4 tie in the fifth when he homered off Bill Bray (0-2).

Giants 2, Diamondbacks 0, 11

innings

At Phoenix, Nate Schierholtz hit a two-run triple in the 11th inning as San Francisco inched closer in the playoff race by beating Arizona.

Madison Bumgarner matched zeros with Diamondbacks starter Ian Kennedy into the eighth inning and the Giants pulled it out in the 11th when Schierholtz followed singles by Aubrey Huff and Buster Posey with his triple to center off Aaron Heilman (5-7).

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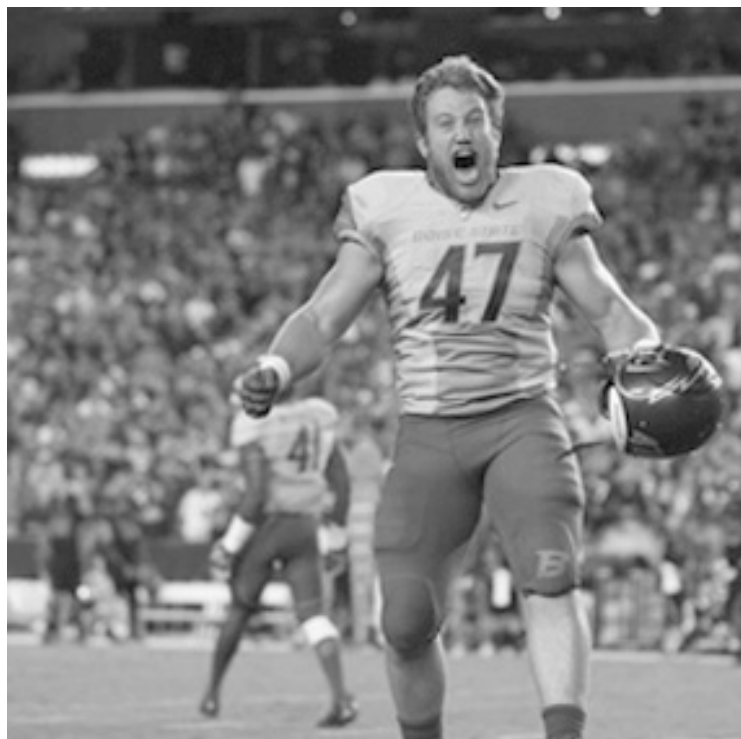
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Boise State's Dan Paul celebrates after time runs out giving BSU the victory over Virginia Tech at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., on Monday Sept. 6, 2010.
Associated Press

AP TOP 25

Continued from front page

The Broncos remained third after a thrilling 33-30 victory against Virginia Tech on Monday night, receiving eight first-place votes and 1,399 points from the media panel, 13 points behind the Buckeyes.

Ohio State received four first-place votes and 1,412 points. Alabama had 47 first-place votes, down seven from the preseason poll, and 1,484 points in the rankings released Tuesday.

TCU from the Mountain West Conference moved up two spots to No. 4, marking the first time since the Bowl Championship Series was implemented in 1998 that two teams from conferences without automatic BCS bids have been in the top five. Boise State is the defending Western Athletic Conference champion.

Texas remained No. 5 and received one first-place vote. No. 8 Florida dropped four spots after a sloppy 34-12 victory against Miami (Ohio) and No. 10 Oklahoma fell three places after beating Utah State 31-24.

The rest of the top 10 is Nebraska at No. 6, followed by Oregon, which moved up four spots after beating New Mexico 72-0. Iowa is No. 9. No. 13 Virginia Tech dropped three spots after Boise State scored a touchdown with 1:09 left to beat the Hokies at FedEx Field in Landover, Md. Falling out of the rankings after close opening losses were Oregon State, Pittsburgh

and North Carolina. Moving in were No. 20 Utah, No. 23 South Carolina and No. 24 Stanford.

But the big story is Boise State and the Broncos very well could be the talk of college football all season.

They entered Monday with their best preseason ranking and a legitimate chance to be national championship contenders — if they could beat the Hokies and then flawlessly navigate a schedule with no games more difficult than the first.

Boise State jumped to a 17-0 first-quarter lead, watched that lead evaporate, then needed a two-minute drill capped by a 13-yard touchdown pass from Kellen Moore to Austin Pettis to win its 15th straight game.

“This was no fluke,” said voter Brett McMurphy of AOL Fanhouse, who had Boise State No. 1 this week. “(The Broncos) outgained Virginia Tech and hung 33 on the Hokies. The last two teams to score more than 30 against (defensive coordinator) Bud Foster’s defense — Alabama in 2009 and LSU in 2007 — went on to win the national title.”

“Will Boise? Who knows, but the Broncos deserve the top ranking for this week anyway.”

The Broncos have finished the last two regular seasons with perfect records, but neither time was it enough to earn them a spot in the national championship game. They were beaten out by teams from the so-called power conferences with BCS automatic bids,

teams like Alabama from the Southeastern Conference and Ohio State from the Big Ten. This season could be different. Boise State doesn’t have to climb over scores of teams to get into position to contend for a spot in the BCS title game, spots determined in large part by the coaches’ poll and the Harris poll.

Boise State was third in the coaches’ poll this week, moving up two spots. The coaches also had Alabama first and Ohio State second. The Harris poll is not released until October.

“We’ve just got a long tough hard season, and the bull’s-eye will continue to grow, and it’s just going to be one game at a time,” coach Chris Petersen said.

Not hard enough to satisfy some people.

Boise State plays at Wyoming in two weeks and gets a visit from Oregon State, which opened its season by losing 30-21 to TCU, the week after. The Beavers from the Pac-10 look like the best team left on Boise State’s schedule, but the Broncos have lost one regular-season game on their blue turf home field since 2001. Toledo also visits Boise State.

As for the Broncos’ WAC competition, well, it’s been almost no competition for the Broncos the past decade. Boise State has won seven WAC titles and is 73-4 against conference opponents from 2000-09, a .948 winning percentage that is by far the best of any major college team.

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SALT daily: 5:15 matinee: 12:45 - 3:00 late show: PG-13	SALT daily: 7:30 - 9:45 matinee: PG-13 late show: 12:00		
EAT PRAY LOVE daily: 7:45 matinee: PG-13 late show: 11:00	THE OTHER GUYS daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30 PG-13		
CATS & DOGS GALORE 3D daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:15 - 2:15 late show: PG	STEP UP 3D daily: PG-13 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: PG-13		
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Venus Williams advances, Querrey loses at U.S. Open

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stanislas Wawrinka beat Sam Querrey in five sets to put two Swiss men in a Grand Slam quarterfinals for the first time in the Open era — and keep the Americans out of the U.S. Open quarters for the second straight year. After waiting out that nearly 4 1/2-hour match, Venus Williams defeated French Open champion Francesca Schiavone of Italy 7-6 (5), 6-4 to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal since last year's Wimbledon. Wawrinka won 7-6 (9), 6-7 (5), 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 on Tuesday to join a countryman whose presence this deep in a major tournament is just assumed: Roger Federer. Not so for Wawrinka. The 25-year-old had been 0-5 in the round of 16 at Grand Slams.

"Roger, he's always in quarterfinals since many years, so that's not something different," Wawrinka said. "But for me, it's my first time, so it's something important for my career."

The U.S. men, meanwhile, had at least one quarterfinalist at their home major each of the first 41 years of the Open era. That changed in 2009, and now it's happened again. Querrey himself is still searching for his first Grand Slam quarterfinal berth. He had his chances Tuesday. So did the 25th-seeded Wawrinka, as momentum swung back and forth as quickly as the wind whipped around Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Williams, seeded third, and the sixth-seeded Schiavone struggled to hold serve: There were nine breaks in 23 games. Williams failed to serve out the match in the second set, then proceeded to break the Italian to clinch the victory.

"It's not easy to play in these conditions," Williams said. "It's hard to know what decisions to make."

No. 20 Querrey wasted three break points in the third game of the final set, which seemed headed to another tiebreaker until Wawrinka made one final push leading 5-4.

Querrey fought off one match point with a lob that was just high enough to force deuce. But after Querrey hit a forehand into the net, Wawrinka made the most of his second chance.

This goes down as the worst year for American men in Grand Slam events. They had only one quarterfinalist at the four major tournaments: Andy Roddick at the Australian Open.

In the first two sets, each player went up 3-0 to start a tiebreaker only to go on to lose it.

Querrey was fortunate to even be in that second tiebreaker after saving four set points at 4-5. He appeared to be in control in the third set, going up a break, but Wawrinka rallied to break him twice and close out the set.

The youngest man left in the draw, the 22-year-old Querrey was in the midst



Venus Williams, of the United States, reacts during a quarterfinal against Francesca Schiavone, of Italy, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010.
Associated Press

of a breakthrough season, reaching the fourth round at a second straight Grand Slam. He entered the top 20 in the rankings for the first time in July and had won four titles this year; only No. 1 Rafael Nadal has more.

With Wawrinka upsetting fourth-seeded Andy Murray in the third round, the draw seemed to be opening up for Querrey to make a deep run. His quarter of the bracket didn't have a top-10 seed left.

In contrast, Wawrinka didn't come into the Open looking like a future quarterfinalist. A former top-10 player, his ranking had slipped to No. 27, the lowest in more than

two years.

But Wawrinka had the experience of a 13-7 record in five-set matches. Querrey was just 1-2.

Wawrinka will next face Mikhail Youzhny, who briefly slowed Spain's march through the U.S. Open bracket.

The 12th-seeded Russian beat Tommy Robredo, the lowest-ranked man left in the draw, 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. The 41st-ranked Robredo was one of a record six Spanish men to reach the fourth round at Flushing Meadows.

Two will make the quarters: No. 1 Rafael Nadal faced 23rd-seeded Feliciano Lopez

and eighth-seeded Fernando Verdasco took on No. 10 David Ferrer in a pair of all-Spanish matchups later Tuesday.

"They have a lot of courts. They have a lot of good facilities to practice well," Youzhny said. "I think it's not really expensive to practice in Spain for Spanish people. In Russia now it's much expensive to practice in Moscow. Not everybody can do this one."

Williams will next face the winner of Tuesday's second women's semifinal: No. 2 Kim Clijsters, the defending champion, against No. 5 Sam Stosur.

Americans vs. American for a spot in worlds semis

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

ISTANBUL (AP)—David Blatt was a teenager in Massachusetts in 1972, and remembers crying after the Soviet Union's controversial victory over the United States for the Olympic gold medal.

Blatt now thinks the Americans were wrong, that they weren't cheated.

That's not all that's changed for Blatt when it comes to basketball and his homeland. The Kentucky native now coaches Russia, which will meet the U.S. on Thursday for a spot in the semifinals of the world championship.

"It's kind of mind boggling for me," Blatt said. "I hope my guys are less confused and they'll get out there and play. I just don't want to mess it up too bad."

Russia advanced to the quarterfinals with a superb defensive performance in a 78-56 victory over New Zealand on Monday. Hours earlier at the Sinan Erdem Dome, the Americans crushed Angola 121-66 in their best effort of the tournament.

The U.S. made 18 3-pointers and had 30 assists against just five turnovers.

"If we play like that, I don't think really anybody could beat us," guard Eric Gordon(notes) said.

Blatt played at Princeton, and its offensive principles show in Russia's deliberate pace. But Blatt doesn't sound convinced that anything can be done to slow the U.S. speedsters.

"We obviously lack certain things that they're going to attack and they're going to try to take advantage of, and all things considered I'd rather be in Philadelphia right now," Blatt said. "I really don't want to play them, but we're going to, and

for my guys it's a great, fun thing, and I know my guys will compete. I just don't know that we have enough to play against that group."

The game comes 38 years to the day after the Soviet Union's 51-50 victory in the gold-medal game in Munich. The Americans took a one-point lead on Doug Collins' free throws with 3 seconds left, and seemed to have won when the Soviets inbounded and didn't score.

But the Soviets claimed they'd called timeout, and an official had whistled for play to stop when he saw a disturbance near the scorer's table. Time was put back on the clock, and again the Americans celebrated as the Soviets failed to score after inbounding.

More confusion followed because the clock was still being reset when the ball was put in play. Given a third chance when FIBA's secretary general ordered the final 3 seconds replayed, the Soviets won when Aleksander Belov caught a long pass over two U.S. players and scored.

Their 63-game Olympic winning streak snapped when basketball's governing body denied their protest, the Americans voted unanimously to refuse their silver medals, which remain locked away.

"There's a wonderful film about that, and I hate to say it as an American, but it looks like the Russians were right. The American team was not cheated," Blatt said. "Funny things happened, but in reality it was fair."

Blatt had already become a successful coach throughout Europe when the Russian Basketball Federation hired him in 2006, the first foreigner to coach the national team. Blatt led



Coach of Russia David Blatt from the U.S.A. reacts during a World Basketball Championship preliminary round match against Greece in Ankara, Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010.
Associated Press

the Russians to the 2007 European championship in Madrid, where they upset reigning world champion Spain in the final.

With Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko(notes), Russia's top player, and other veterans no longer playing, the Russians are a young team that relies on defense. They improved to 5-1 with the victory over New Zealand, with Timofey Mozgov(notes), a center who recently signed with the New York Knicks, scoring 16 points.

Blatt is unsure if he will return as Russia's coach,

but said he hasn't thought about what an upset of the Americans could do for his career.

"My mind tends to wander to things that are somewhat realistic. I don't know how realistic that is," he said.

"I would like to see us come play well, though. I don't want to see us come out and just give in to that onslaught that they're going to prepare for us, and it's not going to be easy. We've just got to do a whole lot of things special to stay in the game. Give me a couple of days and I'll see if I can figure that out, but I ain't a magician."

Though Blatt makes the U.S. sound invincible, the other American coach in the game believes otherwise.

"We are beatable, not unbeatable," Mike Krzyzewski said. "I've been fortunate to be the coach for the last five years and there is no one in our country who has a greater feeling in our country for the international game than me."

Krzyzewski points to all the good teams and exceptional players.

"It's an honor for us to be in these competitions," he said. "But we also know that we're beatable."

Will Ex-CEO Mark Hurd Seek Vengeance on HP at His New Job?



WASHINGTON, DC — When Mark Hurd was fired as CEO of Hewlett-Packard following a mysterious sexual harassment complaint, Oracle CEO Larry El-

lison slammed HP's board of directors saying they "just made the worst personnel decision since the idiots on the Apple board fired Steve Jobs." Now Ellison

is putting his money where his mouth is, hiring Hurd as Oracle's co-president. "Mark did a brilliant job at HP and I expect he'll do even better at Oracle," Ellison said in a statement announcing the hire. Intriguingly, Oracle is looking to compete in the same space as HP. Will Hurd exact revenge on his former bosses?

Recap "For those who came in late, Hurd was fired from HP for the alleged lapse of having fiddled his expenses over taking a former soft porn star out to dinner, who accused him of sexual harassment, and covering it up," explains Ed Berridge at The Inquirer. "At the time Oracle's CEO Larry Ellison slammed HP's board of directors... Ellison said that there is no executive in the IT world with more relevant experience for Oracle than Hurd."

Now Hurd Can Get Back at HP for Firing Him, writes John Pacz-

kowski at All Things Digital: "Indeed, Hurd's knowledge of HP's server and data storage-systems business will undoubtedly come in handy at Oracle, which has been aggressively moving into that very space ever since its acquisition of Sun. In that sense, Hurd's hiring is a real coup for Oracle. Who better to put the screws to a rival than a former CEO with a bone to pick?"

HP Is Kicking Itself Now, suggests Patrick Thibodeau at Computer World: "HP's board may have hoped Hurd would disappear into the mysterious world of private equity fund management, and not, as it turns out, go to a company with an ever-expanding desire for growth."

This Could Arouse HP's Lawyers, writes Dennis Howlett at ZDNet: "H-P could sue on the assumption that as he is now working for a competitor his ability to maintain confidentiality goes

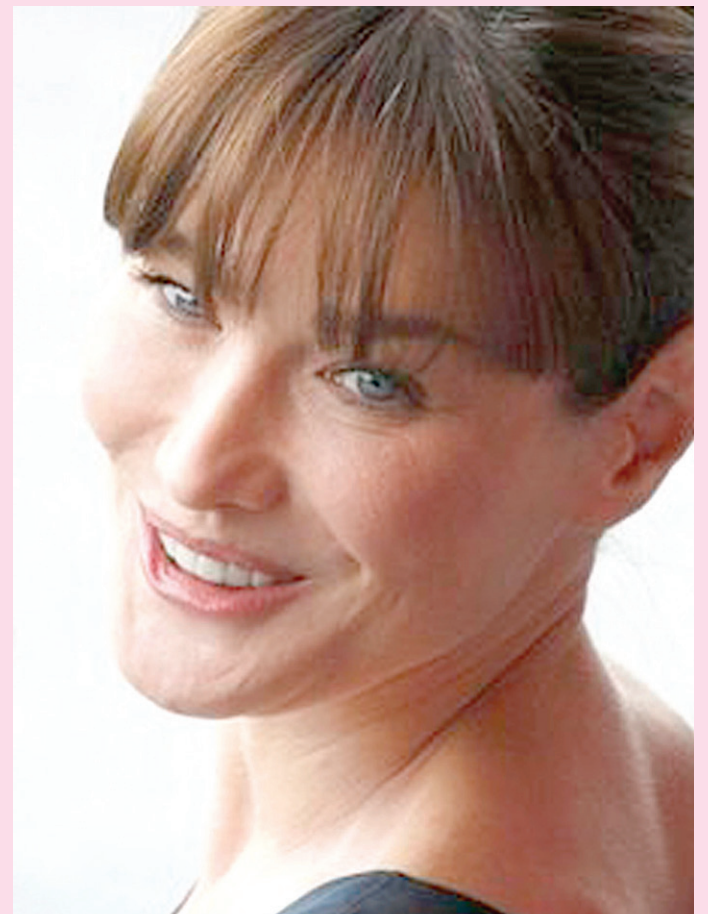
out the window. Experts believe the non-compete will be hard to make stand up but that still leaves the question - what about the money? I guess we'll have to wait see if H-P sues. I'm betting that Larry Ellison has provided Hurd with assurance that whatever his potential loss, Oracle will cover with stock options and the promise of even greater riches at Oracle."

It's Now Oracle Vs. IBM Vs. HP, writes Larry Dignan at ZDNet: "if Oracle is going to topple IBM it will by extension knock HP around too. In storage, HP is the leader in total storage systems revenue (EMC is tops on pure play storage), according to IDC. IBM is No. 3 in market share. On servers, HP and IBM are the two market share leaders with 32.5 percent and 29.8 percent, according to IDC. Oracle is No. 4 with nearly half the market share of No. 3 Dell."

With a Little Help From My Friends

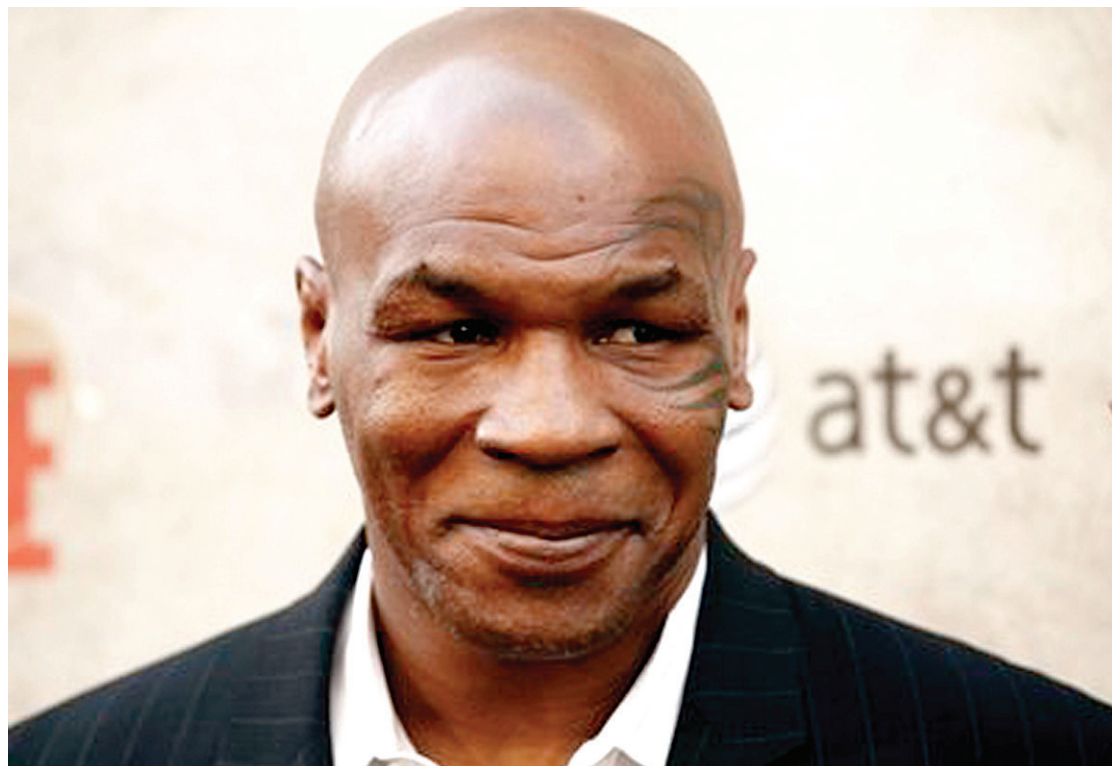
A few weeks ago, my friend, the designer Jean Paul Gaultier, launched with Elle magazine a special t-shirt he has designed for the Born HIV Free campaign, included with copies of Elle magazine sold in France during August. This campaign, for the Global Fund, is about letting the world know that ending the transmission of HIV between mothers and children by 2015 is totally achievable. It also asks for people to show their support for their countries' contribution to the Global Fund, which already funds more than half of the programs around the world to help HIV-positive women prevent the virus being passed on to their children. (Although almost half of all women who need it receive treatment to prevent this transmission, still over 430,000 babies are born with HIV every year.) On the upper right front of Jean Paul's t-shirt -- about where your heart is -- is a printed inscription in Jean Paul's handwriting that says: "Hope spreads faster than AIDS," and below it is his signature. Jean Paul's t-shirt is right on the mark -- and a brilliant example of how the artistic community can help raise awareness about causes by using their creative energies make their fans and supporters aware of these issues. In my role as ambassador for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, I have the honor and good fortune to be able to bring together some of my peers, who are immensely talented in their artistic fields, to help spread the message of hope for the cause I represent in my ambassadorship, the protection of mothers and children from HIV. We will keep

on doing that till we can proudly announce that the world carries no more babies with HIV. An amazing collection of artists, musicians, and visionaries brought together by my friend producer Julien Civange who conceived the campaign have lent their talents to shed light on the global goal to end the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children by 2015. Oscar-winning filmmakers H5 produced a series of short, beautiful and educational films that show how mothers with HIV can protect their children from the virus. French artist Les Bonzoms created a series of animation films, accompanied by the music of Amy Winehouse, with babies floating through the sky, dreaming of a beautiful life that begins by being born free of HIV. Paul McCartney streamed his concert in late June at Hyde Park exclusively through the Born HIV Free YouTube channel -- the first time a European concert was ever streamed live on YouTube. And we have just launched a new campaign video, "Inside," by trail-blazing animator Mac Guff Paris, with an instrumental version of "With or Without You" offered by U2. The first step of the Born HIV Free campaign will end on October 5 at the Global Fund Replenishment Summit in New York, when donor governments will hear how many people from around the world (over 14 million) have shown their support for the dream of freeing future generations from HIV through this campaign's website, YouTube channel and social media. For the videos and other material on these virtual platforms, all the artists involved have created a mood of optimism,



of certainty about a brighter future, of energy and possibility -- one of hope for being so close to the first end game in the fight against HIV and AIDS, as Jean Paul's t-shirt proclaims. It takes an inspired group of visionaries whose work and talents are brought together to achieve any goal as ambitious as this one -- and those in the world of the arts have their own part to play. If we all lend our voice, we can achieve a generation free of AIDS by 2015.

Tyson talks friendship with Tupac — and his regret



NEW YORK — When Mike Tyson looks back on his friendship with Tupac Shakur, he thinks about the rapper's big heart, explosive anger — and the one regret he has about their relationship. "He always wanted me to smoke weed with him, and I never did it, and I wish I did," Tyson said in a

recent phone interview.

Tyson said he declined because he was a closet smoker and didn't want it to get out that he smoked the drug. Now, when he looks back on the lost opportunity, he says: "That's my biggest regret." Tyson's friendship with Shakur is the subject of a new documen-

tary, "One Night in Vegas: Tyson & Tupac," which airs Tuesday on ESPN (8 p.m. EDT).

The 25-year-old rapper was shot after a Tyson fight in Las Vegas on Sept. 7, 1996; he died six days later.

"He didn't last long, but the time he did last, every minute, every

tenth of a moment was explosive," Tyson said.

The documentary chronicles their relationship, which Tyson said took hold when he was imprisoned in 1992 for rape.

"Every day, he would call me or get a chance to call me or send a message," said Tyson. "He would get word to me in prison."

By the time Tyson was released in 1995, Shakur would be jailed for sex abuse; he was released on bond later that year. When he got out of prison, Tyson and Shakur's friendship deepened. Both found it difficult to find people who truly cared for them, Tyson said.

"Our problem was we always had to worry about someone betraying us, our closest friends," Tyson said.

Friendship was so important to Shakur that he criticized Tyson when he selected a song from rapper Redman as his intro music at a fight.

"He said, 'Don't you ever play those (expletive) songs again, they don't give a (expletive) about you,'" Tyson recalled. "When he said that, it pierced my soul. ... I felt like I did something wrong."

After that talk, Tyson decided Shakur's raps would be his intro music for life.

It was partly because Tyson had chosen Shakur's music as his fight music that Shakur went to Tyson's fight in Las Vegas. He made a special rap for Tyson's big night. After the fight, which Tyson won by knockout, Shakur was to join Tyson at a victory party. But he never made it.

"I felt extremely guilty because I felt if he didn't come to this fight, that would have never have happened," he said. "It's just so crazy that we had talked every day for a week."

Tyson, 44, said the world never understood the real Shakur.

"He was probably a misguided warrior. He had a heart as big as this planet," Tyson said. "He had so much love and compassion, and you couldn't even see it under his rage."

It's because of those qualities that he remains larger than life in death, he said.

"He's going to last until the time this Earth comes to an end," he said. "I'm glad to be a part of his life and to have known him."

Time capsule for Beatles fans

NEW YORK — A revised DVD about the Beatles' initial appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" is like cracking open a time capsule.

Almost as interesting as the band making its musical introduction to America in 1964 is the context in which it is placed. The DVD presents the programs exactly as they appeared that night — complete with hapless magicians or comedians, commercials that would shame "Mad Men" and illustrations of how the pace of television has changed. The first night, Feb. 9, 1964, is a landmark in television. An estimated 73 million Americans tuned in, the largest ever for a TV show at the time, or three times the amount of people who watched the latest "American Idol" finale, according to the Nielsen Co.

A generation of musicians can trace their career choices to that night. One was Dennis DeYoung, former Styx lead singer, who told the Montreal Gazette that he watched it while at a high school dance.

"I looked at that and I went, 'Oh, my God! What is that? And how do I apply for that job?'" he recalled. "That was it. There was never any doubt in my mind what I wanted in my life."

The DVD is similar to one made available in 2003 and another from 2006, but with punched-up video and sound quality. "The 4 Complete Ed Sullivan Shows Starring the Beatles," as well as the earlier releases, are from SOFA Entertainment, which owns the archive of Sullivan shows (a staple on CBS' Sunday-night schedule from 1948 to 1971).

Even if not quite new, there's a willing audience of Beatles fans eager to see almost anything about their heroes that lands on the market.

Sullivan, the competitive old newspaper columnist, clearly knew the high stakes involved that night and gave the Beatles two showcases on the first show.

While the Beatles' appearance stands in memory like a thunderclap, their power seemed muted the first time they hit the stage. Their first two songs, "All My Loving" and "Til There Was You," were both Paul McCartney showcases and the band didn't really hit its stride until the powerful "She Loves You." Even then, the cameras seemed to shortchange John Lennon in favor of McCartney. For all the attention paid to that first night in New York, their performances on the following week's show from Miami are much better. They had repeats: "She Loves You" was played both weeks. Cutaways to the audience show young girls who can barely stay in their seats from the excitement of it all. Older people look bored, annoyed and clueless to the generational change staring back at them.

The Beatles' cheekiness, enthusiasm and talent was bracing.

"It's like they were in color and everybody else was in black and white," said Andrew Solt, CEO of SOFA Entertainment.

Watching the magician with the hard luck of following the Beatles to the stage that first night is painful. Fred Kaps' show biz career never really recovered from that moment, Solt said. It seemed his routine would never end.

The sense that television moves much more quickly today is one of the most interesting finds in the DVD time capsule. Mitzi Gaynor, who was once the princess of musical comedy, gave a sweaty performance from Miami, has enough time for costume changes. Comic Frank Gorshin's routine with movie star impersonations was interminable. The comic team of McCall & Brill, with a punch line about an "ugly girl," would not have made it past today's taste police.

One other performance in that first week came from the cast of the Broadway show "Oliver,"



including a young Davy Jones, whose life was changed in the wake of the Beatles' performance in a way he couldn't have imagined. A few years later, he was cast as one of the Monkees, a prefab rock band that was a Beatles knockoff.

Sullivan "didn't spend too much money on talent that week because he knew he had the audience," Solt said.

Producers plainly believed people had an attention span then, certainly much more so than now. Perhaps the knowledge that viewers had to get out of their seats to turn the channel — and then had a couple of choices, not north of 100 other networks — was on their mind.

The same is true of the ads. Can you imagine a commercial break with only one commercial?

Maybe it was what they were hawking, but the ads are stunningly unimaginative. What were the Madison Avenue pitch men of the day thinking? Then again, even an image of waves lapping up on a tropical shore couldn't save an instant pineapple upside down cake that was stocked in a supermarket freezer. Cold water detergent All was called "revolutionary."

The DVD also contains Sullivan shows from Feb. 23, 1964 and Sept. 12, 1965 when the Beatles also performed. Twenty songs in all are performed, including three versions of "I Want to Hold Your Hand."



Congress Republicans wary of Obama economy plan



WASHINGTON—Republicans in the Congress showed little willingness to help President Barack Obama approve \$350 billion worth of measures to boost the economy with midterm elections less than two months away.

Obama's plans for billions of dollars in tax breaks for businesses are policies that Republicans typically embrace, but the party has little motivation to give the Democratic White House a win with polls showing them gaining seats in Congress -- possibly winning both houses.

Obama will announce his plans to stimulate the sagging U.S. economy -- including the tax breaks and new spending on transportation projects -- in a speech on Wednesday in Cleveland.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday there was little appetite for new economic proposals from Obama, arguing that the \$814 billion stimulus that the president already pushed through Congress in early 2009 has not had the desired effect.

"After the administration pledged that a trillion dollars in borrowed stimulus money would create 4 million jobs and keep the unemployment rate under 8 percent, their latest plan for another stimulus should be met with justifiable skepticism," he said.

Obama needs support from the Republicans, who are far outnumbered by Democrats in Congress but are nonetheless able to block legislation.

The Republicans hope to take the House of Representatives and perhaps even the Senate in the November vote, which would put them in position to call the shots on any new economy-boosting initiative. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said officials there realize Congress has only weeks left to work before adjourning for the campaign trail ahead of November 2. He said Obama's plan "isn't about the next 60 days or the next 90 days," but rather is a long-term strategy for growth. "In the end this president and this administration will be graded on what happens at the end of this road, not some

place in between," Gibbs said. With fellow Democrats facing punishment from recession-weary voters in November, Obama is under pressure to do more to create jobs and bring down the stubbornly high 9.6 percent unemployment rate, even as economists agree he has few good options left.

Obama's plans include \$200 billion worth of tax write offs for businesses, a boost for infrastructure with an initial \$50 billion investment, and increasing and permanently extending a tax credit for business research and development that would cost \$100 billion over 10 years.

"These aren't necessarily bad proposals, but they don't address the two big problems that are hurting our economy -- excessive government spending, and the uncertainty that Washington Democrats' policies, especially their massive tax hike, are creating for small businesses," said House Republican leader John Boehner.

Analysts say the new economic proposals direct government assistance to some of the strongest parts of the economy without solving the biggest problem: finding work for the 14.9 million unemployed.

BUSH TAX CUTS

Republicans said their main objective is for Congress to extend tax cuts enacted during the Bush administration and which are set to expire this year. Party leaders are calling expiration of the cuts a tax hike.

Democrats want to extend the tax cuts for those making \$250,000 a year or less, but Republicans want tax cuts for the wealthy to be retained as well.

Google to start TV service in U.S. this autumn



BERLIN—Google Inc will launch its service to bring the Web to TV screens in the United States this autumn and worldwide next year, its chief executive said, as it extends its reach from the desktop to the living room.

CEO Eric Schmidt said the service, which will allow full Internet browsing via the television, would be free, and Google would work with a variety of programme makers and electronics manufacturers to bring it to consumers.

"We will work with content providers, but it is very unlikely that we will get into actual content production," Schmidt told journalists after a keynote speech to the IFA consumer electronics trade fair in Berlin.

Sony said last week it had agreed to have Google TV on its television sets, and Samsung has said it was looking into using the service.

The announcement comes less than a week after rival Apple

unveiled its latest Apple TV product and will intensify a battle for consumers' attention and potentially for the \$180 billion global TV advertising market.

Schmidt also said Google would announce partnerships later this year with makers of tablet computers that would use Google's Chrome operating system, due to be launched soon, rather than its Android phone software, which has been used for mobile devices until now.

The Mountain View, California-based company plans to make Chrome, which competes with Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Mozilla's Firefox, the center of an operating system that would offer an alternative to Microsoft Windows.

The world's No.1 search engine is hunting for new revenue opportunities as growth in its core Internet business slows and as new technologies such as smartphones and social networking services transform the way consumers access the Web.

Schmidt declined to comment on Google's plans for a social network of its own, and while he said there were plans to expand in music, he would not elaborate.

Reuters reported last week that Google was in talks with music labels for a music download store and a digital song locker.



US smoking rate still stuck at 1 in 5 adults



ATLANTA — U.S. smoking rates continue to hold steady, at about one in five adults lighting up regularly, frustrated health officials reported Tuesday. About 21 percent of U.S. adults were smokers in 2009, about the same percentage as the year before, according to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. The smoking rate — which fell dramatically since the 1960s — has basically been flat since about 2004. Teen smoking, at nearly 20 percent, has not been improving lately, either. Health officials believe they've lost momentum because of cuts to anti-tobacco campaigns

and shrewd marketing by cigarette companies. The new report suggests that more than 46 million American adults still smoke cigarettes. "It's tragic," said CDC director Dr. Thomas Frieden, who calls smoking the No. 1 preventable cause of death in the United States. He

estimates that smoking kills 1,000 Americans a day. Some experts were particularly disheartened by a CDC finding in a second report that nearly all children who live with a smoker — 98 percent — have measurable tobacco toxins in their body. Experts say tobacco taxes and smoking bans are driving down rates in some states. But nationwide, they say progress has been halted by tobacco company discounts or lack of funding for programs to discourage smoking or to help smokers quit. The annual smoking report was based on government surveys. The second report looked at levels in the blood of cotinine, a chemical from tobacco smoke, in a total of more than 30,000 nonsmokers between 1999 and 2008. Overall, detectable levels of cotinine dropped over the 10 years — from about 52 percent to 40 percent. That may be due in part to more smoking bans in workplaces, restaurants and other places.

But there were several bits of bad news in that report, too: Most of the decline came about 10 years ago. More than half of U.S. children ages 3 to 11 are exposed to secondhand smoke, and the CDC says there is no safe level of exposure. There's been virtually no improvement for children who live with a smoker, noted Matthew L. Myers, president of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, a Washington-based research and advocacy organization. Although the statistics are largely unchanged, advocates said the reports are important. They plan to use the data to pressure national, state and local governments to do more against smoking. "Without bold action by our elected officials, too many lives, young and old, will suffer needlessly from chronic illness and burdensome health care expenses," Nancy Brown, chief executive of the American Heart Association, said in a statement.

Japan confirms its first case of new superbug gene

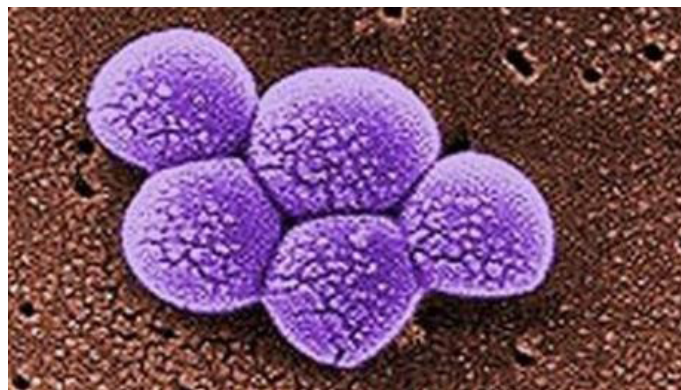
TOKYO — Japan has confirmed the nation's first case of a new gene in bacteria that allows the microorganisms to become drug-resistant superbugs, detected in a man who had medical treatment in India, a Health Ministry official said Tuesday. The gene, known as NDM-1, was found in a Japanese man in his 50s, Kensuke Nakajima said.

Researchers say the gene — which appears to be circulating widely in India — alters bacteria, making them resistant to nearly all known antibiotics.

Drug-resistant bacteria are not new. Many bacteria are resistant to the world's first antibiotic, penicillin, as well as successive generations of drugs. Excessive use and improper use of antibiotics have exacerbated the problem and led to the emergence of superbugs.

"The potential of NDM-1 to be a worldwide public health problem is great, and coordinated international surveillance is needed," according to a widely publicized report in the British medical journal Lancet in August.

The gene has been seen largely in the deadly E. coli bacteria and on DNA structures that can be easily



copied and passed onto other types of bacteria.

The man was hospitalized in April 2009 after returning from India where he had medical treatment. Nakajima declined to say what kind of treatment the man had received in India, citing the man's privacy.

The man had a high fever while staying at a hospital in Tochigi, north of Tokyo. He was discharged in October last year.

The hospital — Dokkyo Medical University Hospital — kept a preserved sample of the suspected superbug from the man. The hospital examined the sample after the Lancet report.

The Tochigi hospital notified the Health Ministry about

the detection of the NDM-1 gene. It told the ministry that no in-hospital infections were found. Following the confirmation of the discovery — Japan's first NDM-1 case — the Health Ministry launched a nationwide survey, asking local health authorities to check on hospitals for evidence of more infections.

Along with India, the new superbug gene has been detected in small numbers in Australia, Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, Sweden and the U.K. Researchers say since many Americans and Europeans travel to India and Pakistan for elective procedures like cosmetic surgery, it was likely the superbug gene would spread worldwide. Antimicrobial resistance — the ability of microorganisms to escape drugs' efficacy — is an increasing global health problem that could affect control of diseases such as respiratory infections and dysentery, according to the World Health Organization.

The WHO says NDM-1 requires monitoring and further study. With effective measures, countries have successfully battled multi-drug resistant microorganisms in the past.

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Pez león, pequeña gran amenaza a ecosistemas del Caribe

CHICHIRIVICHE, Venezuela (Reuters) - En la superficie todo parece tranquilo: la arena blanca, el agua cristalina y un abrasador sol invitan a zambullirse en esta paradisíaca bahía del caribe venezolano. Sin embargo, bajo la calma del mar turquesa una amenaza se cierne silenciosa: el pez león, un animal repleto de espinas venenosas que podría poner en riesgo la fauna marina y el turismo en el Caribe. La criatura de rayas marrones y blancas de unos 20 centímetros de largo es oriunda del Océano Índico y llegó accidentalmente al Caribe cuando el huracán Andrew arrasó en 1992 un acuario del sur de Florida liberando seis ejemplares. El pez león (*Pterois volitans*) aprovechó la falta de depredadores naturales y se reprodujo a un ritmo vertiginoso, propagándose por las aguas que bañan América Central, Colombia, Las Antillas, México y Venezuela. Y Venezuela, un país petrolero con unos 4.200 kilómetros de costas en el Caribe, es la nación más vulnerable. “Aquí está empezando la invasión. La gran mayoría de los ejemplares que hemos observado son pequeños”, dijo a Reuters el buzo y camarógrafo submarino Rommel Cubas, tras atrapar a dos escurridizos ejemplares

jóvenes a unos 10 metros de profundidad en Chichiriviche, a unas dos horas al oeste de Caracas. En julio de este año, el pez león fue detectado en 23 localidades de Venezuela. Pocas semanas después ya eran 31, lo que ha disparado las alarmas entre los expertos que advierten que este pequeño pez amenaza la subsistencia de los pueblos costeros que viven de la pesca y el turismo. “(El pez león) depreda especies de importancia comercial y ecológica que mantienen limpios de algas los arrecifes coralinos. Si no se mantiene limpio de algas, el arrecife se muere”, dijo el investigador Oscar Lasso-Alcalá, de la Fundación La Salle de ciencias naturales.

PLAGA REGIONAL

Lasso-Alcalá representó en agosto a Venezuela en el primer taller regional sobre estrategias para el manejo del pez león realizado en el balneario mexicano de Cancún, donde ictiólogos e investigadores de varios países dieron la voz de alerta sobre esta nueva plaga. Originalmente solitario, el pez león cambió sus hábitos al llegar al Caribe y ahora vive en grandes cardúmenes donde alcanza el doble de su tamaño regular, lo que lo hace más destructivo para la



biodiversidad. Cubas ha capturado medio centenar de ejemplares con un sencillo método que consiste en rodear al animal con una bolsa plástica transparente. Sin embargo, sus esfuerzos podrían ser inútiles teniendo en cuenta la rápida reproducción del animal. “La hembra puede colocar hasta 30.000 huevos por vez. Estos huevos al ser fecundados flotan en la superficie y son llevados por las corrientes marinas”, explicó Lasso-Alcalá.

Conscientes de la inminencia de la llegada del pez león a costas venezolanas, el investigador de la Fundación La Salle y el profesor de la Universidad Simón Bolívar, Juan Posada lanzaron en el 2009 una campaña de alerta temprana. Sin embargo, su esfuerzo no tuvo eco y recién ahora los medios de comunicación locales han reportado la amenaza de esta especie. Lasso-Alcalá y Posada lanzaron en febrero el portal <http://pezleon.cbm.usb.ve> para que buzos y pescadores

colaboren registrando sus avistamientos de este tipo de peces.

COMERSE AL INVASOR

Por el patrón de corrientes de las costas venezolanas, los expertos creen que en unos años el pez león llegará al norte de Brasil.

“Erradicar la especie es imposible, porque además el pez león no es de aguas someras”, dijo Lasso-Alcalá. La solución podría ser más simple de lo que muchos imaginan. Los investigadores creen que la mejor forma de mantener a raya al pez león es incentivar su consumo como alimento.

Para ello alistaron al reconocido chef venezolano Sumito Estévez, que protagonizará una campaña para explicar a la población que el pez león es comestible y si se retiran sus espinas es inofensivo.

“Hay una diferencia grande entre animales tóxicos y venenosos, el pez león tiene el venenoso focalizado en las espinas”, explicó Posada, de la Universidad Simón Bolívar. Quienes lo han probado dicen que su carne es muy sabrosa debido a la dieta de peces de menor tamaño que devora con facilidad en el Caribe. “Es la mejor carne que probado en mi vida”, dijo Cubas.

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Polémica en Perú por ley que afectaría derechos humanos

LIMA (Reuters) - Una ley recientemente aprobada por el Gobierno peruano que permite cerrar procesos largos a acusados de violación a los derechos humanos avivó el martes una polémica en el país, que sufrió una guerra interna por dos décadas con un saldo de 69.000 muertos y desaparecidos.

Un grupo de militares retirados solicitó archivar un juicio en curso desde el 2001 vinculado al tema y que aún no tiene sentencia, acogiendo a la ley aprobada por el Gobierno de Alan García al recibir poderes legislativos en la materia.

La medida fue rechazada por organismos defensores de los derechos humanos y familiares de víctimas de abusos y el ministro de Justicia, Víctor García Toma, amenazó con renunciar luego de mostrar diferencias sobre los alcances de la ley.

El funcionario dijo que la norma no coincide con una

“versión aceptable” que planteó su portafolio sobre el tema.

“En realidad estoy esperando (... saber) cual de las versiones de la exposición de motivos de ese dispositivo ha sido remitida al Congreso”, dijo García Toma al canal local América Televisión, al comentar la posibilidad de su renuncia.

La ley señala que los jueces deben declarar el archivo de un proceso judicial contra miembros de las fuerzas armadas por abusos a los derechos humanos cuando se haya superado el plazo máximo de un juicio sin sentencia, que es de hasta 36 meses.

Uno de los estos juicios es al llamado Grupo Colina, conformado por militares que actuaron en la clandestinidad en su lucha contra guerrilleros del maoísta Sendero Luminoso, durante el Gobierno del ex presidente



Imagen de archivo del ministro de Justicia peruano, Víctor García Toma, durante una ceremonia en Lima. Mar 18 REUTERS/Mariana Bazo/ARCHIVO

Alberto Fujimori.

Varios miembros del Grupo Colina están siendo procesados por casos de violaciones a los derechos humanos, entre ellos la matanza en 1991 de

15 personas, entre ellos un niño de 8 años, supuestamente vinculados a la guerrilla izquierdista.

Por este caso y otros, el ex presidente Fujimori fue

condenado a 25 años de prisión acusado de cobijar al grupo paramilitar durante su Gobierno entre 1990 y el 2000.

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